action

THE BIG O

created by Hajime Yatate
story and art by Hitoshi Ariga

Vol. 5

VIZ Graphic Novel

$9.95 USA/$13.95 CAN

THE BIG O
Something happened 40 years ago to wipe out the memories of everyone living in Paradigm City. The people have lost their past and now they're desperate to build the best future they possibly can.
Into this dystopia comes Roger Smith, super negotiator and giant robot pilot. Employing a combination of brains and brawn, this hero-for-hire keeps the peace in a city inching towards madness.

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RATED A FOR ALL AGES

action

VIZ

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Hitoshi Ariga

Created by
Hajime Yatate

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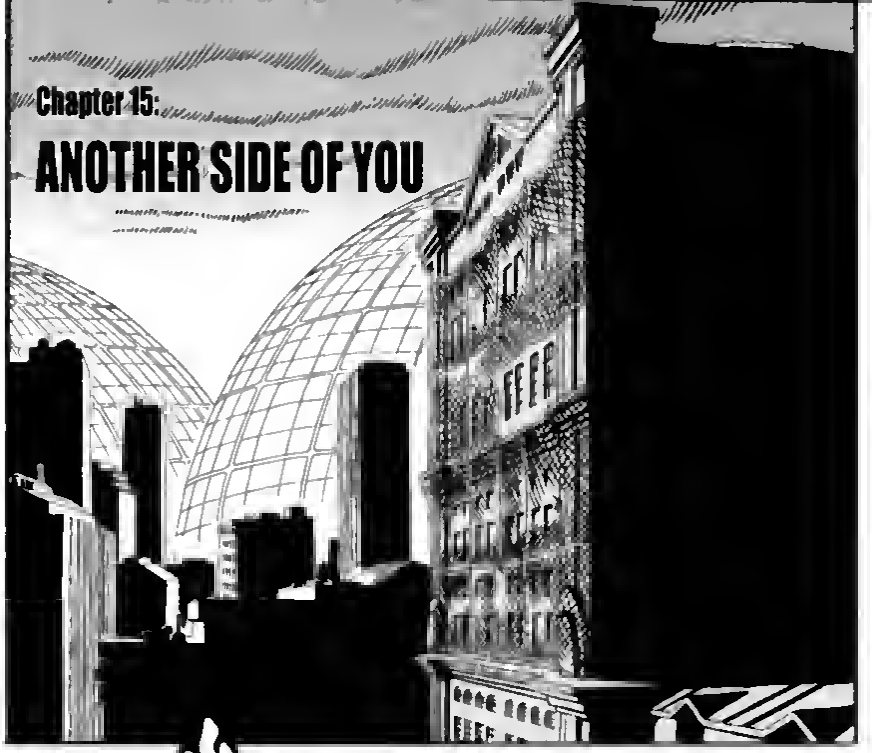


KRANG

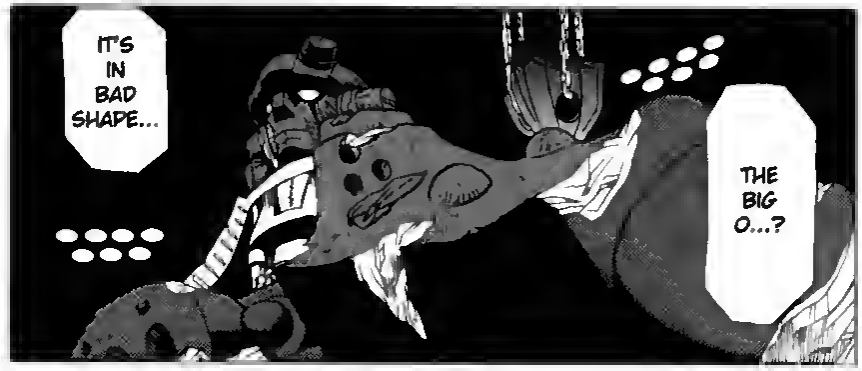
ROGER IS STILL SLEEPING.
IS THAT SO?

HE MUST HAVE OVER-EXERTED HIMSELF YESTER-DAY.

BUT HE'S SUPPOSED TO GO SEE HIS CLIENT AT NOON TODAY.
AND HIS BREAKFAST IS COLD.

BREAK-FAST CAN BE WARMED UP AGAIN.
DOROTHY, WOULD YOU PLEASE GO WAKE MASTER ROGER?

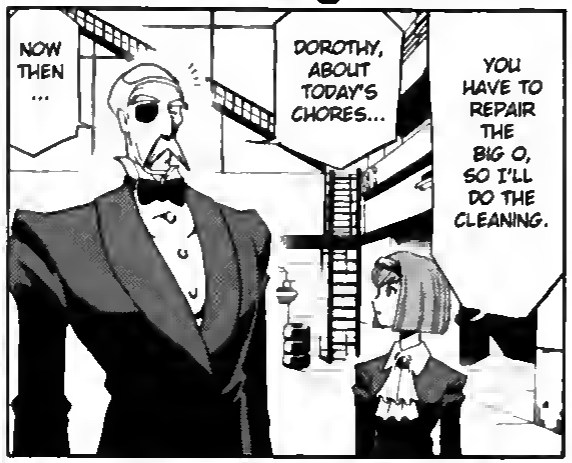
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOROTHY?

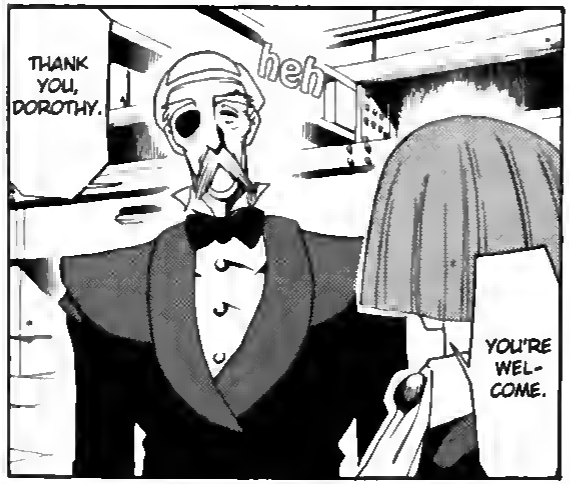

IT'S IN BAD SHAPE...
THE BIG O...?

I'LL FIX IT.
I'M JUST GLAD THAT MASTER ROGER IS ALL RIGHT.

HAVE A GOOD DAY, SIR.
LATER, NORMAN.

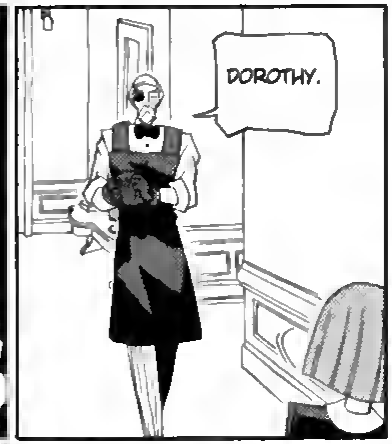
VROOM


NOW THEN ...
DOROTHY, ABOUT TODAY'S CHORES...
YOU HAVE TO REPAIR THE BIG O, SO I'LL DO THE CLEANING.


THANK YOU, DOROTHY.
heh
YOU'RE WEL-COME.

WRRRR

...!


DOROTHY.

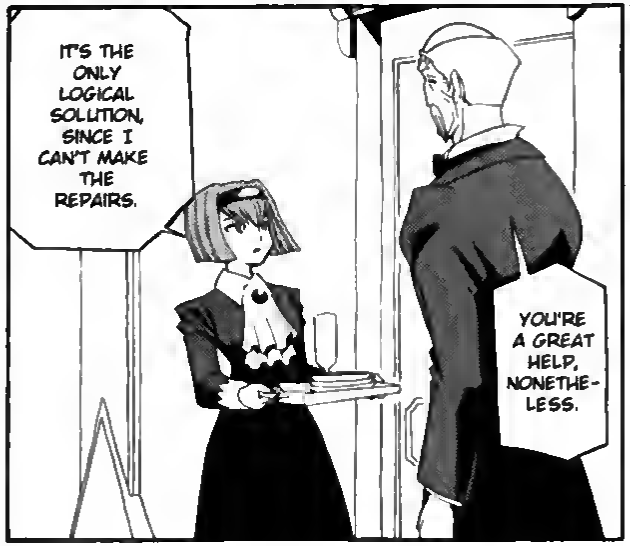
WOULD YOU GO BUY GROCERIES WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED.
I HAVE A LIST HERE.
ALL RIGHT.

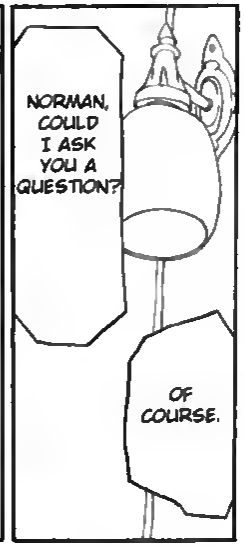
WELCOME HOME, SIR.

YOUR DINNER IS READY.
THANKS NORMAN.

NORMAN, I'LL DO THE REST.
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE BIG O.

WHY THANK YOU, DOROTHY.
I SHALL LEAVE IT TO YOU THEN.


IT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL SOLUTION, SINCE I CAN'T MAKE THE REPAIRS.
YOU'RE A GREAT HELP, NONETHE-LESS.

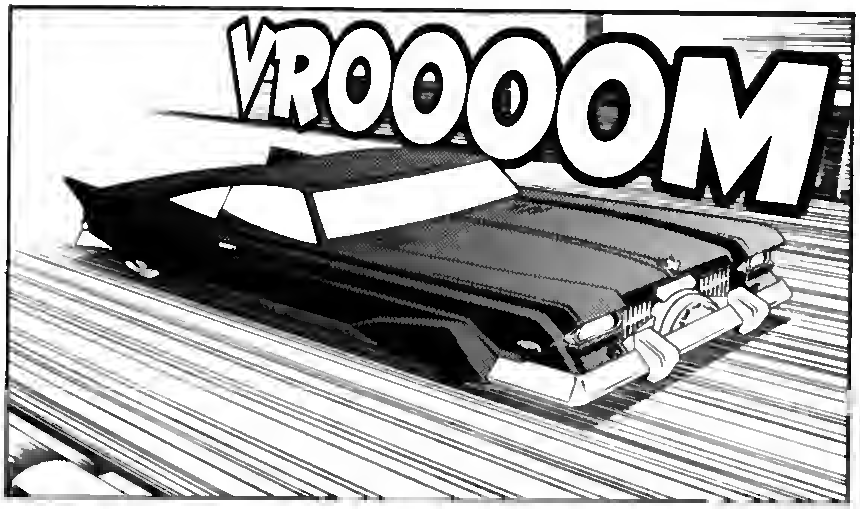

NORMAN, COULD I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
OF COURSE.

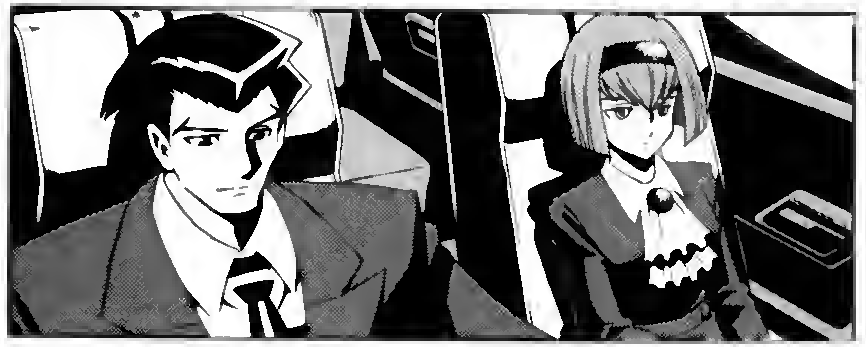
ROGER IS SELFISH,
HE CAN'T EVEN COOK FOR HIMSELF...
AND HE DOESN'T DO ANY HOUSE-WORK.
WHY DO YOU SERVE ROGER?

I ENJOY MY WORK VERY MUCH.

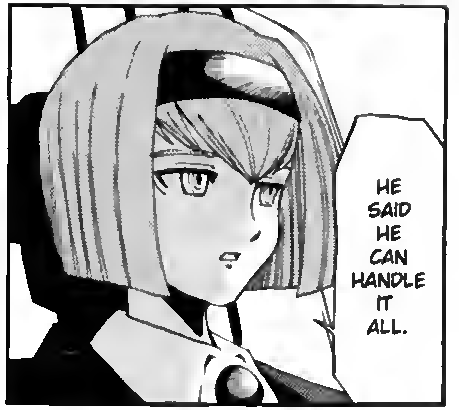
...

I'LL BE IN THE DOCKING BAY...

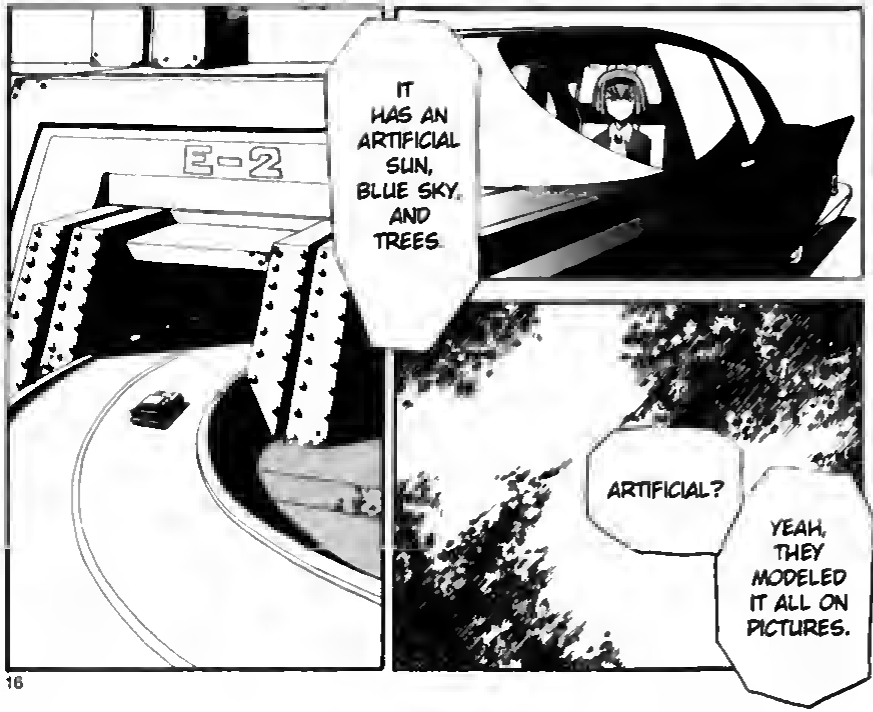

VROOOOOM

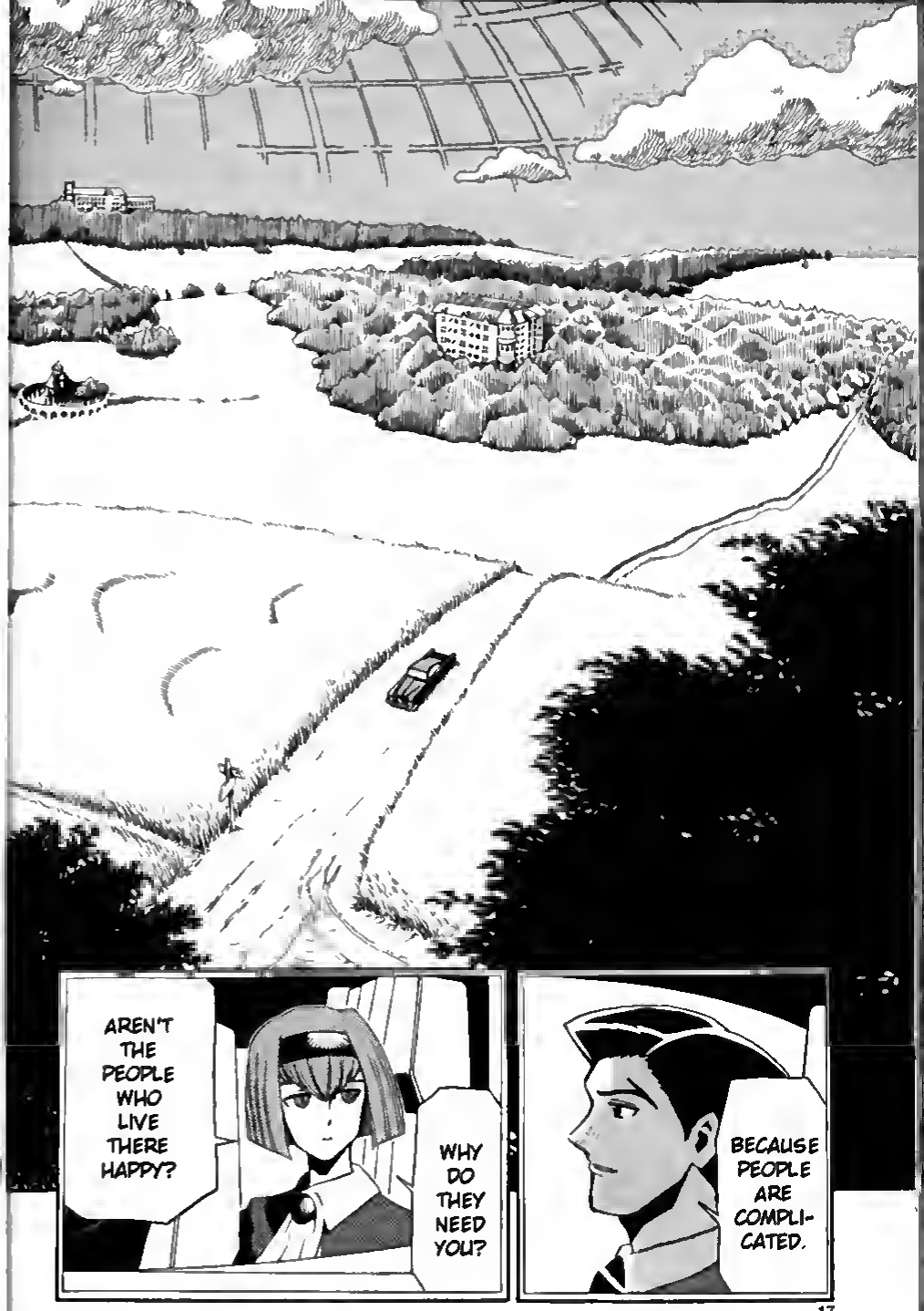


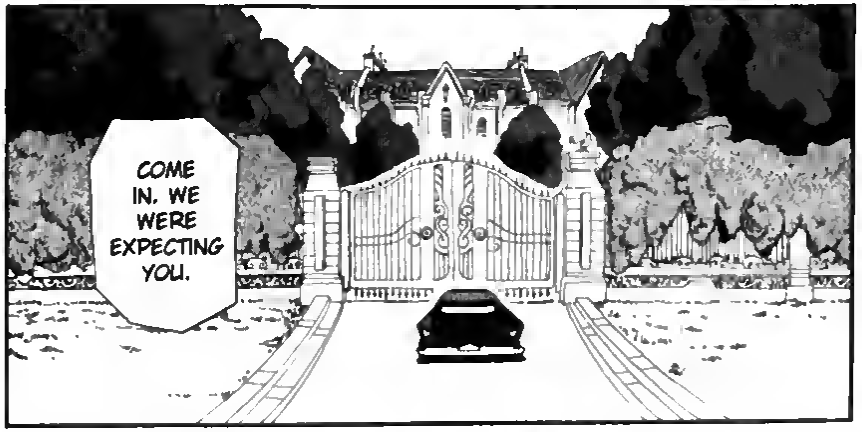
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP NORMAN TODAY?


HE SAID HE CAN HANDLE IT ALL.

THEN COME WITH ME TO THE DOME WHERE THE REALLY RICH LIVE.
IT'S A MINIATURE PARADISE THAT ONLY THE WEALTHY CAN LIVE IN.

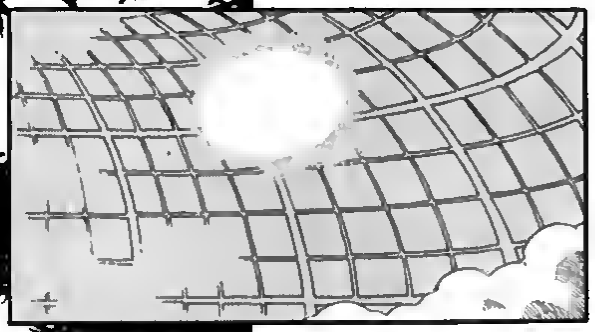

E-2
IT HAS AN ARTIFICIAL SUN, BLUE SKY, AND TREES.
ARTIFICIAL?
YEAH, THEY MODELED IT ALL ON PICTURES.


AREN'T THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE HAPPY?
WHY DO THEY NEED YOU?
BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE COMPLI-CATED.

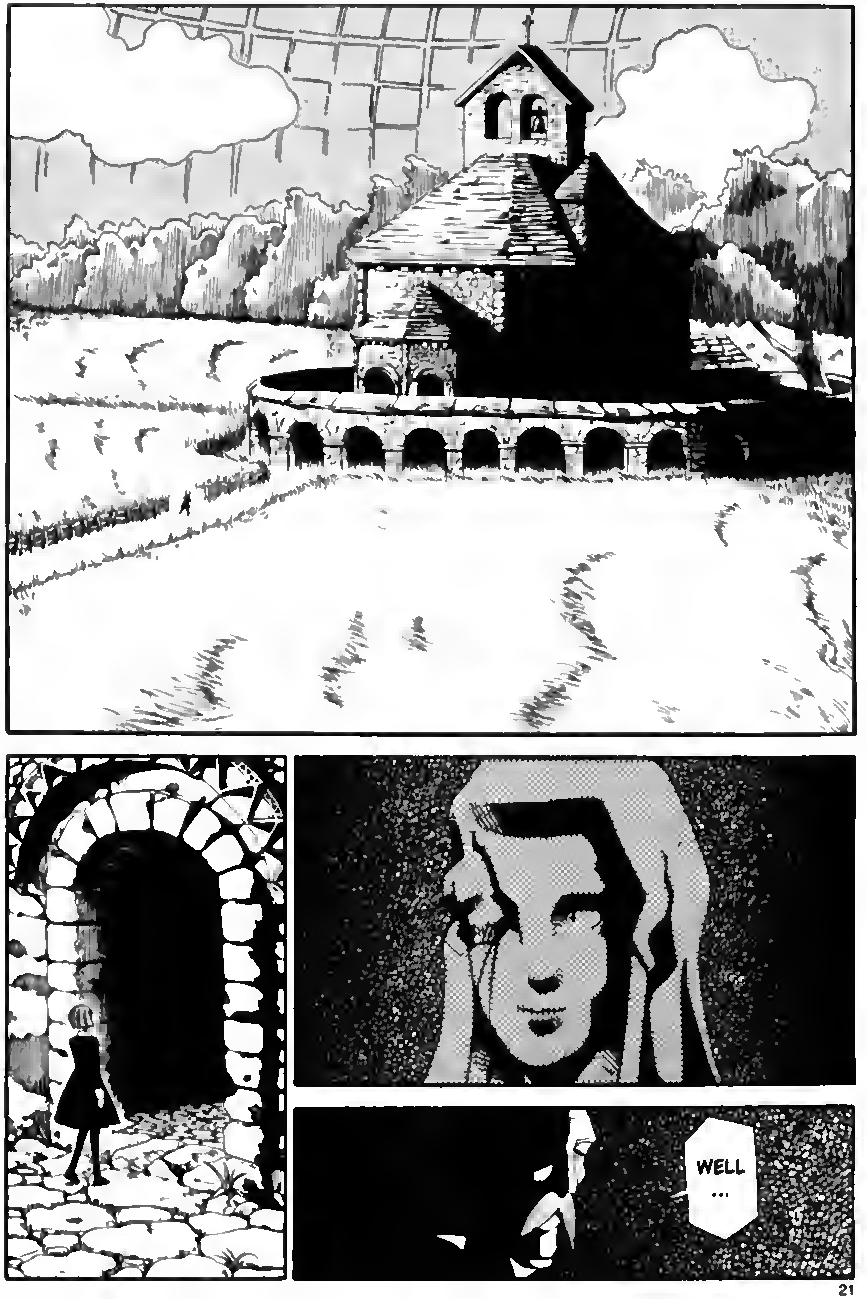

COME IN. WE WERE EXPECTING YOU.

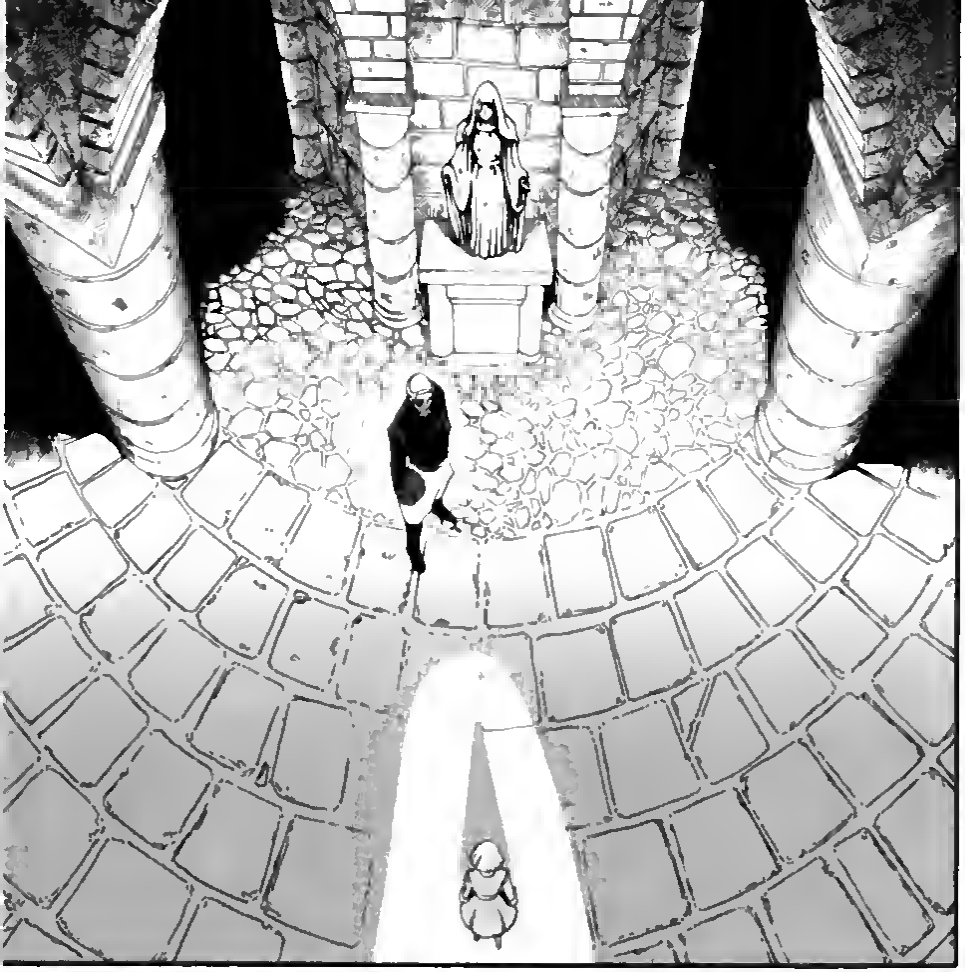
I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH MY CLIENT NOW.
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD RECORD OUR MEETING,
BUT WHY BOTHER?

THIS SHOULDN'T BE MUCH TROUBLE.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK AROUND?

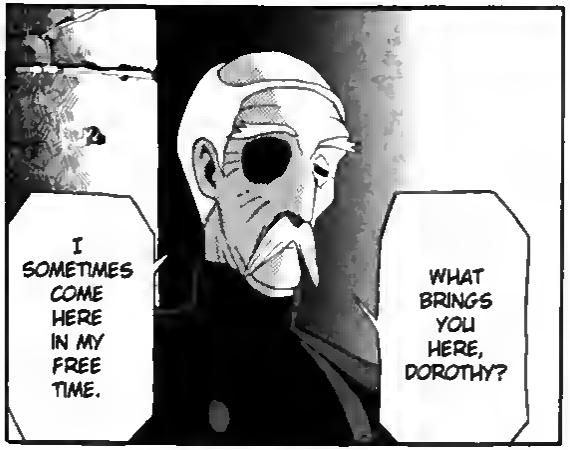


VROOOM
...
VROOOM
fwsh

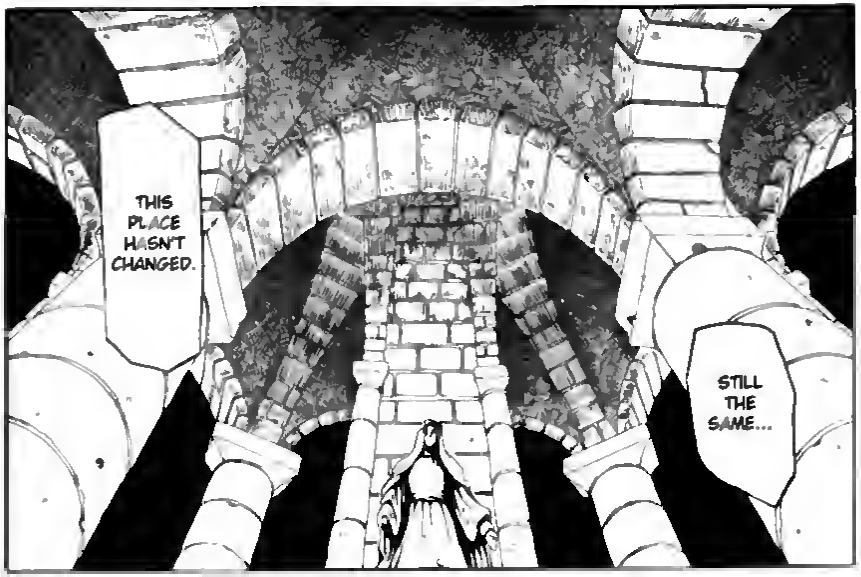

WELL
...



NORMAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

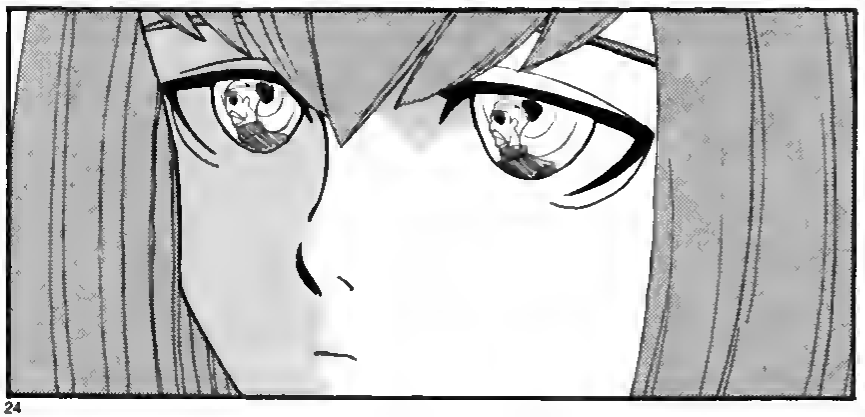

I SOMETIMES COME HERE IN MY FREE TIME.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, DOROTHY?

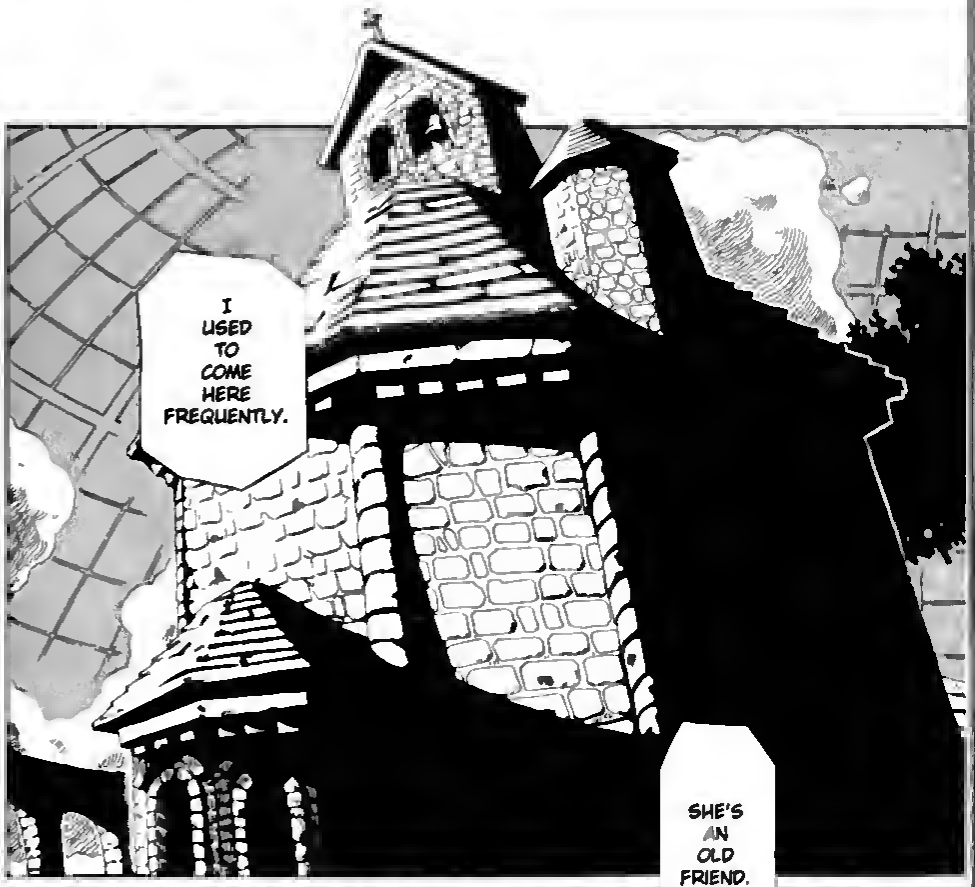
THE CLIENT'S HOUSE WAS IN THIS DOME.
I SEE...

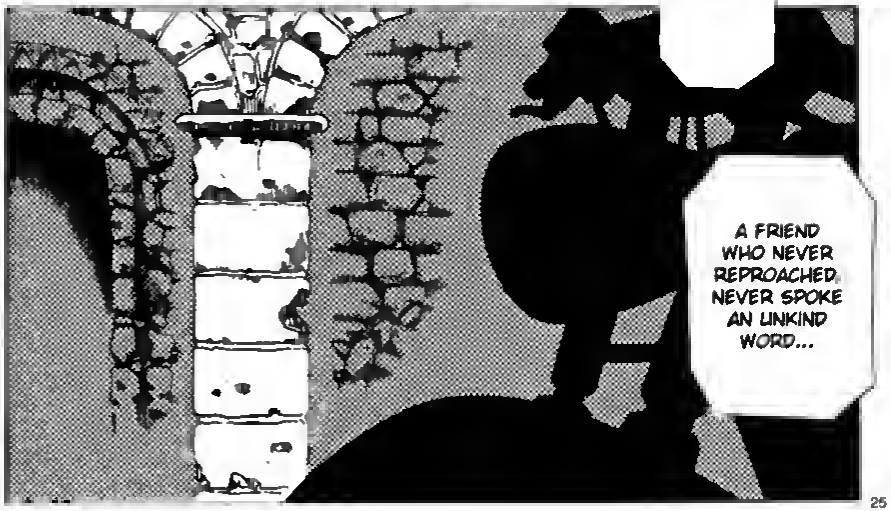

THIS PLACE HASN'T CHANGED.
STILL THE SAME...

WHAT'S THIS STATUE?

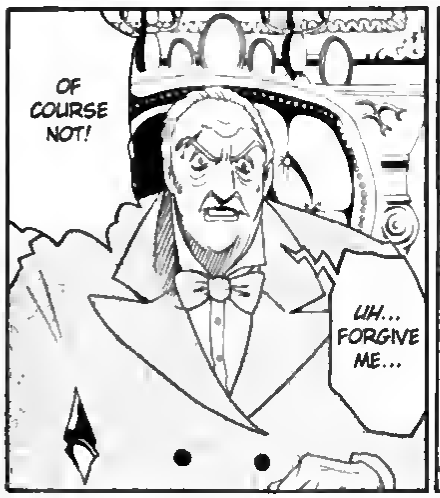
MY... CONFIDANT.




I USED TO COME HERE FREQUENTLY.
SHE'S AN OLD FRIEND.

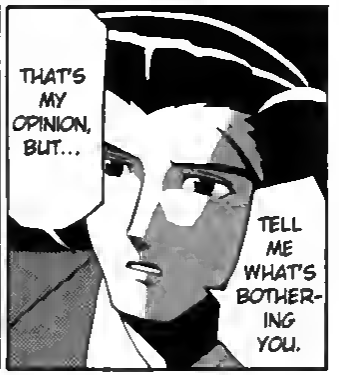

A FRIEND WHO NEVER REPROACHED, NEVER SPOKE AN UNKIND WORD...

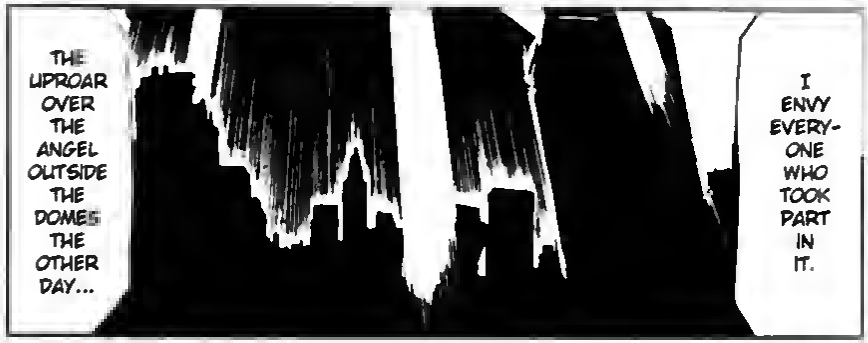
HMM ...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO IT COULD BE, MR. OWEN...?


OF COURSE NOT!
UH... FORGIVE ME...

DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
IT MAY BE JUST A PRANK.

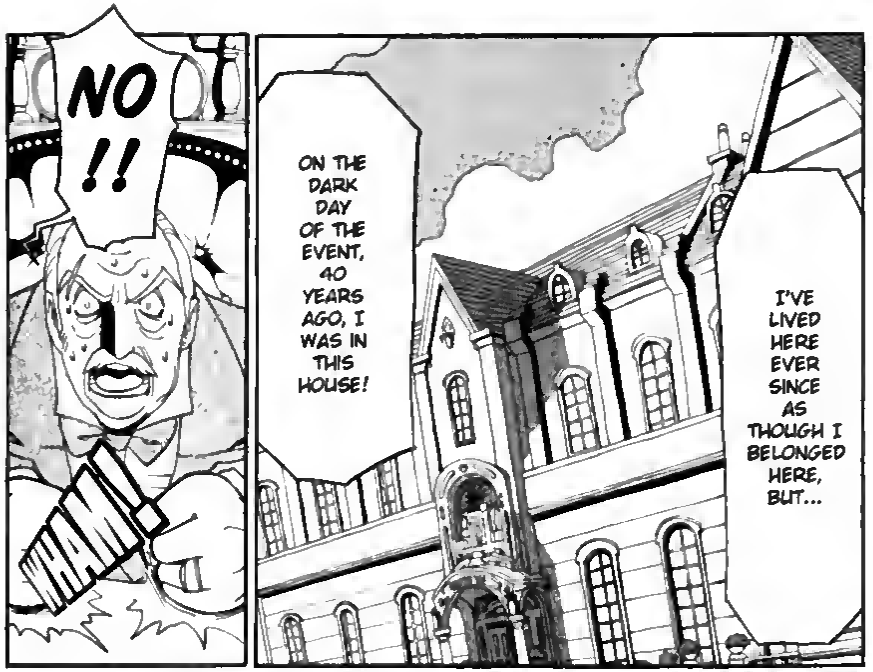
MR. SMITH, YOU'RE YOUNG...
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL...


THAT'S MY OPINION, BUT...
TELL ME WHAT'S BOTHER-ING YOU.


THE UPROAR OVER THE ANGEL OUTSIDE THE DOME THE OTHER DAY...
I ENVY EVERY-ONE WHO TOOK PART IN IT.

NO... I FEAR THEM.
FEAR WHAT?
I HEARD ...
...THAT SOME WHO SAW THE SUN THAT DAY...

HAVE RECOVERED PARTS OF THEIR MEMORIES.
AND YOU WANT A FEW PIECES OF YOUR OWN MEMORY?

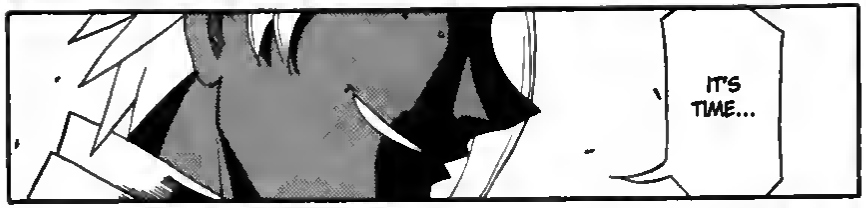

NO !!
WHAM!!
ON THE DARK DAY OF THE EVENT, 40 YEARS AGO, I WAS IN THIS HOUSE!
I'VE LIVED HERE EVER SINCE AS THOUGH I BELONGED HERE, BUT...

THE LETTER JUST SAYS, "I KNOW WHAT YOU WERE 40 YEARS AGO."
BUT IT OFFERS NO EVIDENCE. DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
IT'S NO USE.
IT'S NO USE...

OH, IT'S TERRIBLE ...
WHAT IF...
...
I SOMETIMES WONDER ...
WHAT IF I WASN'T REALLY RICHARD OWEN? WHAT IF I WAS JUST A LANDSCAPER OR A... HANDYMAN?
THE REAL RICHARD OWEN MAY BE WANDERING THE STREETS NOT KNOWING HIS OWN IDENTITY...
SOMEDAY HE COULD REGAIN HIS MEMORY AND COME BACK.
HE COULD TAKE EVERY-THING I HAVE!
BUT, MR. OWEN, YOU HAVE A CITIZEN ID NUMBER, AND THE MEMORY BANK HAS YOUR RECORDS FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS...
YES, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE RECORDS FROM BEFORE THAT!

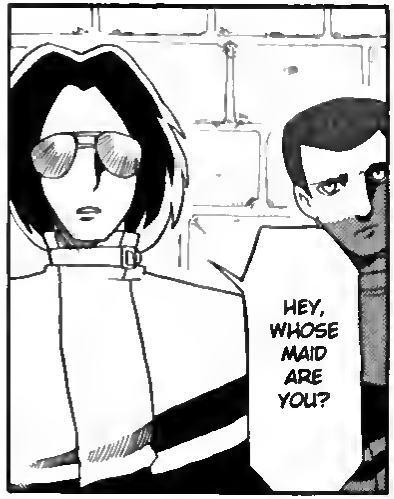
I FEAR THE PEOPLE WHO MIGHT'VE GOTTEN THEIR MEMORIES BACK...
MR. SMITH, PLEASE HELP ME! DON'T LET ANYONE TAKE AWAY MY PROPERTY, MY LIFE...
EASY, MR. OWEN...
HA HA HA!
KLOMP KLOMP
THAT WAS TOO EASY.
MEMORIES ARE THE ACHILLIES' HEEL OF ALL ADULTS.
FWOOOSH

HA HA HA!
BURN! BURN!
KRAK KRK KRK
fwooosh

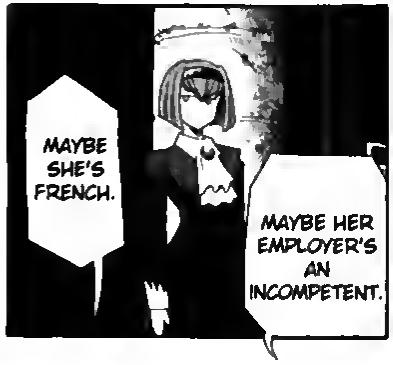

IT'S TIME...

WHAT'S THIS MOTOR-CYCLE DOING HERE?
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S HERE ALREADY.
WHO CARES?

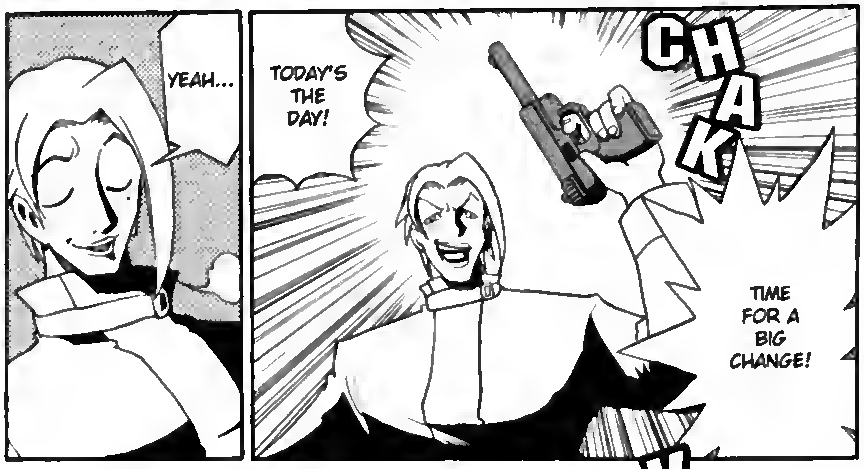
GROWN UPS ACT LIKE BIG SHOTS, BUT THEY'VE ALL GOT BRAIN DAMAGE.
MENTAL CASES SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING THE CITY.
YEAH.
THEY SHOULD ALL RETIRE EARLY.


HEY, WHOSE MAID ARE YOU?

YOU SCARED OF MEMORIES TOO, OLD MAN?


MAYBE SHE'S FRENCH.
MAYBE HER EMPLOYER'S AN INCOMPETENT.

DON'T BOTHER WITH HIM.
HE'S GOT NOTHING WORTH HEARING.


YEAH...
TODAY'S THE DAY!
CHAK
TIME FOR A BIG CHANGE!

TIME TO OUST THESE ADULTS WHO'RE SCARED OF MEMORIES!
CH-CHAK
TIME TO MAKE OUR OWN MEMORIES!
CHAK
CH-C

WEAPONS LOADED AND READY?
YEAH!

MONEY CAN GET US ANYTHING WE WANT.
EXCEPT MEMORIES, RIGHT?
HA HA HA!

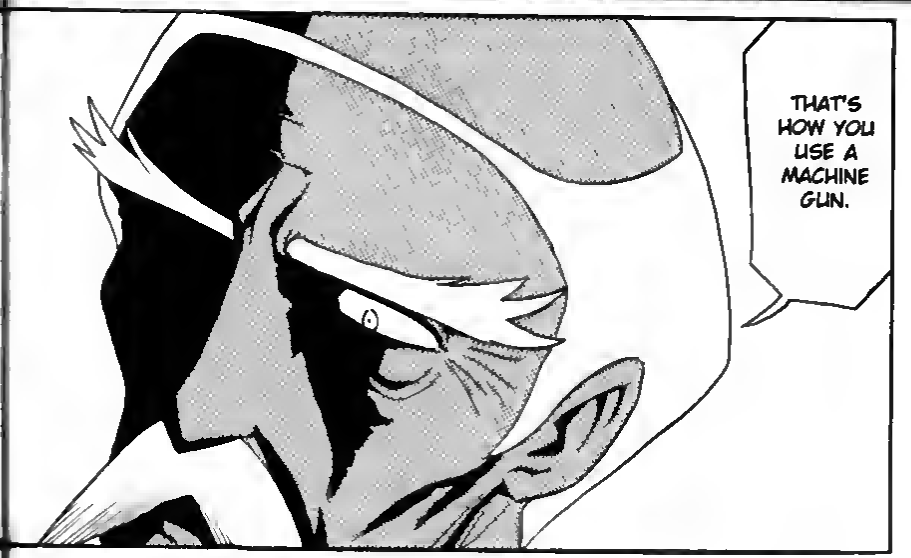
IT'S HEAVY! I'VE NEVER HELD A REAL ONE BEFORE!
SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

I MUST ASK YOU TO CLOSE YOUR EYE FOR A WHILE... AGAIN.
I MUST COMMIT A SINFUL ACT.
?!

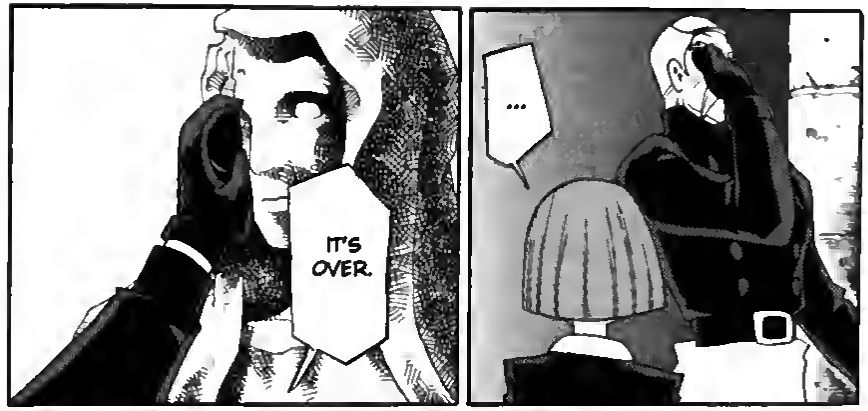
CH-CHAK
ATATATATATATA

AT
AT
AT
AT
AT
AT
AT
AT
tunk
tink
tink
tink
tink

...


THAT'S HOW YOU USE A MACHINE GUN.

UNH ...
KLAK KLAK
KLAK KLAK
THERE ...
HOW'S THAT FOR A MEMORY?


IT'S OVER.
...

OH NO, DOROTHY.
WE BETTER GET BACK OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR DINNER.
SNISK
WUMP

VROOM

WISK
SKWEEK
WISK
SKWEEK
hsss
hsss
hsss
TUNK!

I WOKE ROGER.
THANK YOU.
GOOD MORNING, NORMAN.

GOOD MORNING, MASTER ROGER.

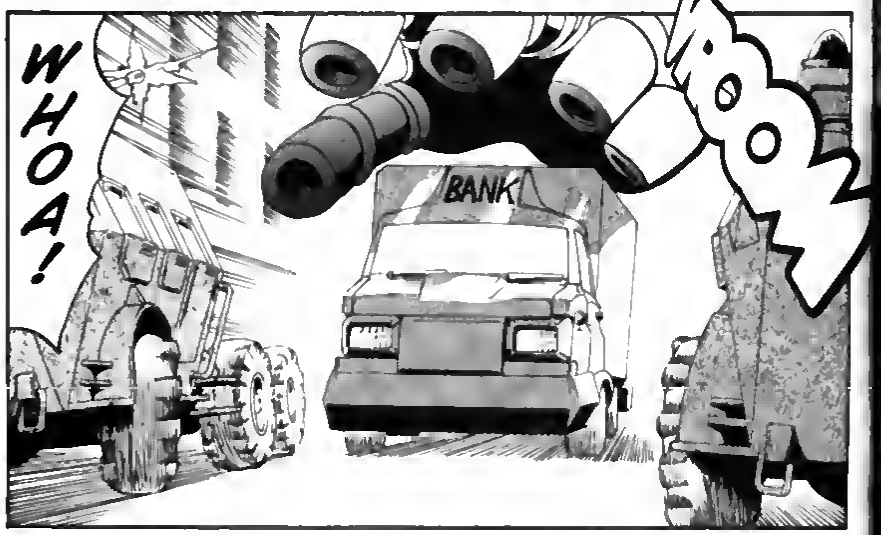
THE
ビッグオー

Chapter 16:
IN DARKNESS

A FEW WEEKS AFTER THE ANGEL INCIDENT...
AN ATMOSPHERE LINGERED IN THE CITYWHICH WAS NEITHER ENTIRELY HOPE NOR DESPAIR.
The Sun will rise again
The Sun will rise on me
The Sun will rise again
A shining morning will come
We lost our hopes and dreams some 40 years ago
We live our lives in twilight never knowing what we know
PEOPLE WANDERED THE STREETS WITH VACANT STARES...

THEY'RE STILL WAITING FOR THE REAL ANGEL TO COME DOWN.
IT'S EASY TO CALL THEIR HOPES FOOLISH NOW.
A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE DUPED INTO GIVING THEIR ENTIRE LIFE'S SAVINGS TO THOSE PHONY ANGEL PEOPLE.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE BANKRUPTED BY THAT INCIDENT, ROGER SMITH?

THE CITY DID CHANGE...
BUT HUMAN NATURE NEVER SEEMS TO.
B
SUPER BECK
BOOM


WHOA!
BANK
BOOM

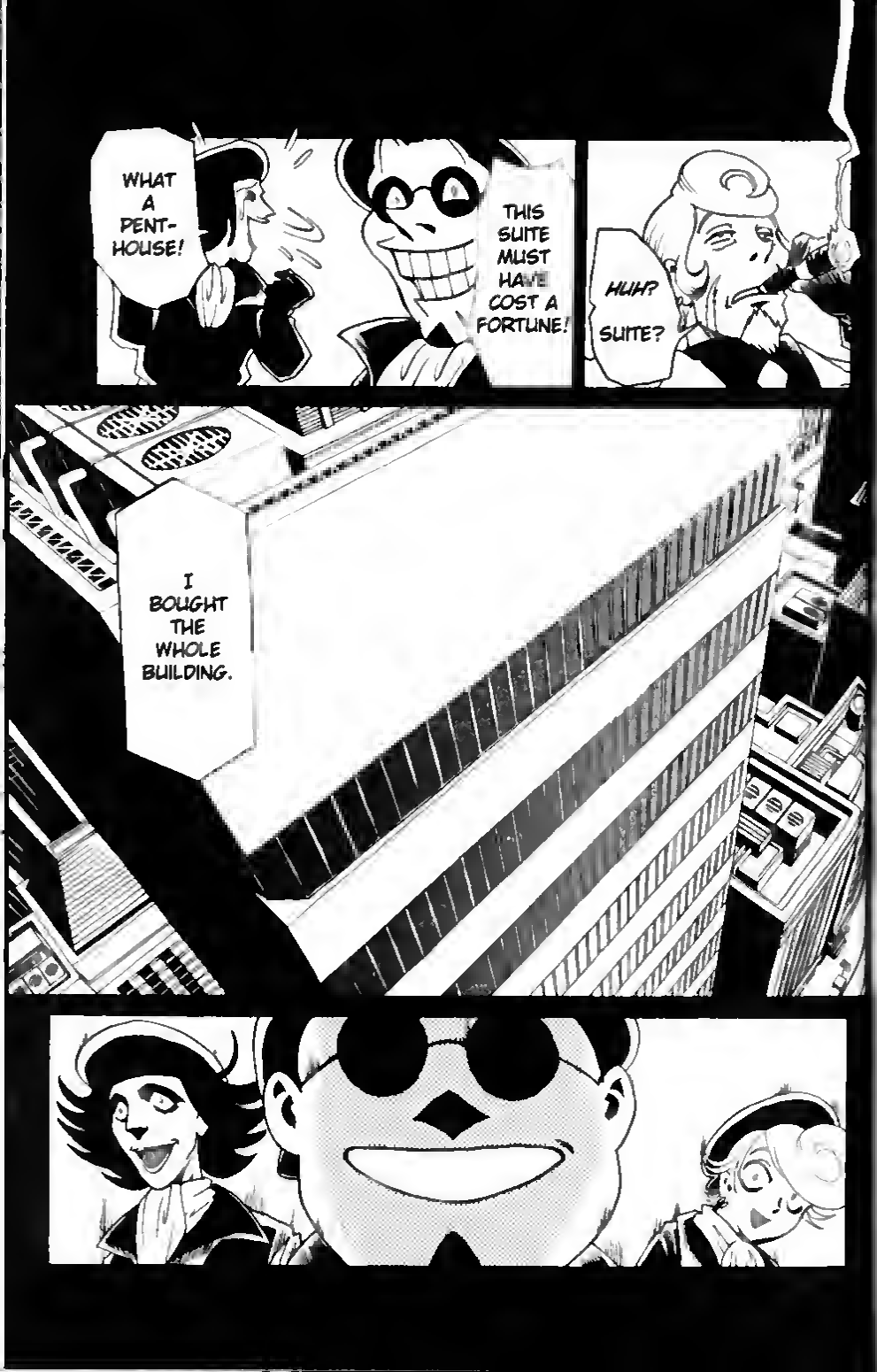
RRRRR
!!
CAST IN THE NAME OF GOD...
B
BOOM!
YE NOT GUILTY!
SHOWTIME!

THMM THMM
THMM
CHUP
CHUKERMP
CHUKERMP
CHERKUMP
CHERKUMP
WOO

KABLAM
D-DAMN...
W--
WE GOTTA DO SOME-THING...

YOU'RE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE CITY NOW, BECK!
EEK!
YOU'RE AN UNDER-WORLD KINGPIN!
HOORAY! WE COULDN'T SPEND ALL THIS IN A LIFETIME!
...
...BECK?
WA HA HA HA HA HA
TEE HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE
THIS WAS TOO EASY...
LIKE YOU SAID, OUR ANGEL HAS SURELY BLESSED US!
OH, YEAH! ♫
SIGH...
WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH SO MUCH MONEY IF IT HADN'T TURNED OUT TO BE A DESTROYING ANGEL

NOW THEN...
YIPPEE!
LET'S PARTY!
YEAH, WITH STYLE!
YAAAAAAAAAY!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THIS CARPET!?
IT GIVES ME SHIVERS WHEN I WALK ON IT!
I DON'T DO ANYTHING HALFWAY!
I CHOSE THE BEST NEIGHBOR-HOOD IN THE CITY.
WOW! WHAT A VIEW!
IT'S LIKE A MOVIE SET!


WHAT A PENT-HOUSE!
THIS SUITE MUST HAVE COST A FORTUNE!
HUH? SUITE?
I BOUGHT THE WHOLE BUILDING.

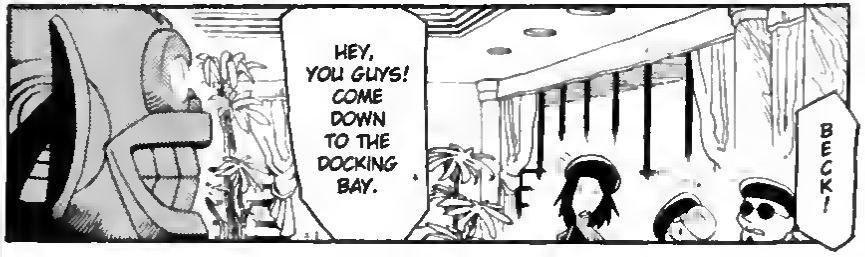
HIS SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL.

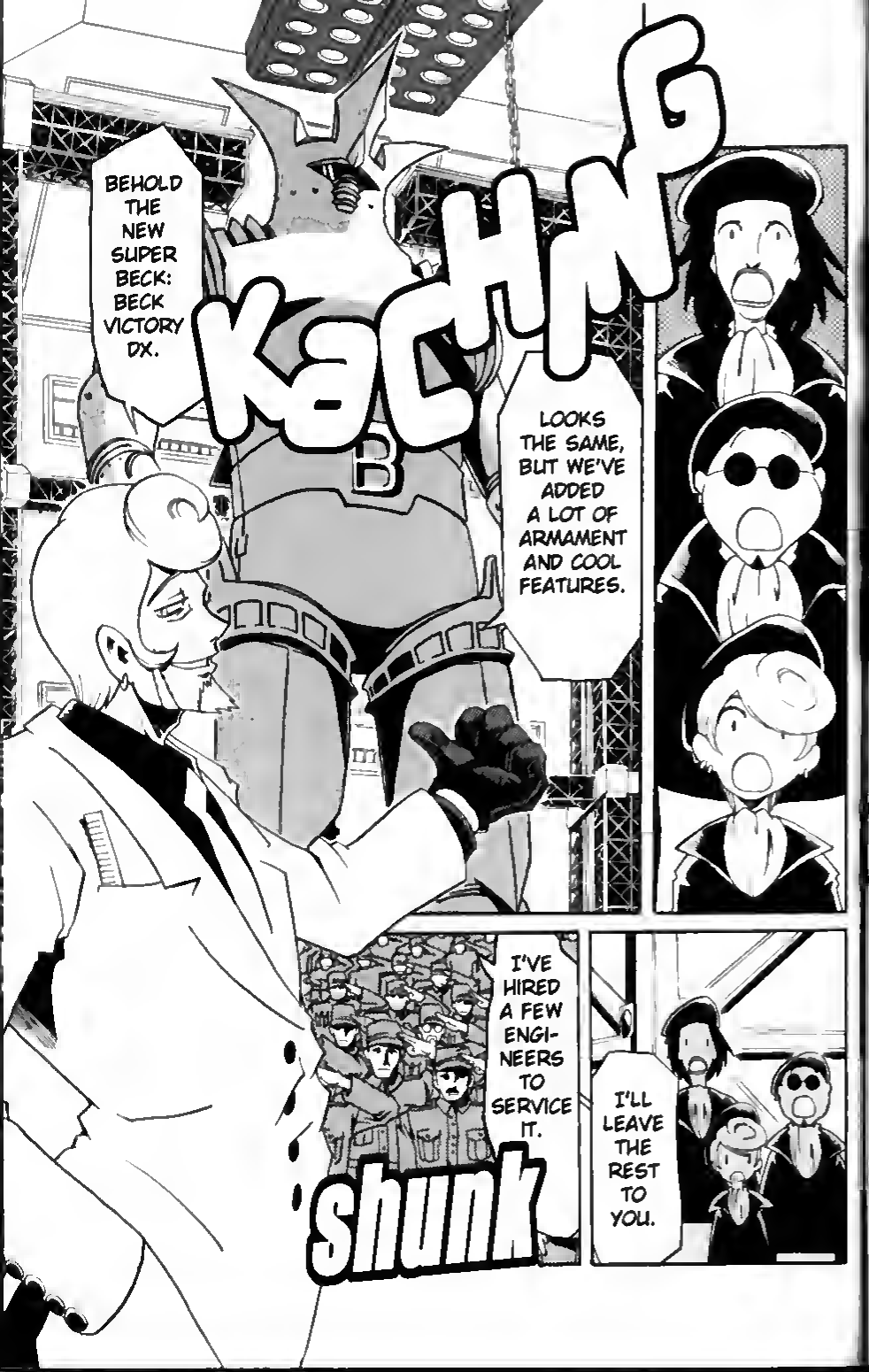
HOW DARE YOU DOUBT A GENIUS LIKE BECK?
LET'S JUST REPLACE WHAT HE SPENDS OURSELVES.

SIGH...
WE'LL HAVE TO REPAIR SUPER BECK FIRST...

PARTS FOR A HEAVY METAL UNIT DON'T COME CHEAP.
WE HAD A HELL OF A TIME BEFORE
THERE'S NO REASON TO SPEND FRIVOLOUSLY, THOUGH... WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK FOR BARGAINS...

beep
beep


HEY, YOU GUYS! COME DOWN TO THE DOCKING BAY.
BECK!

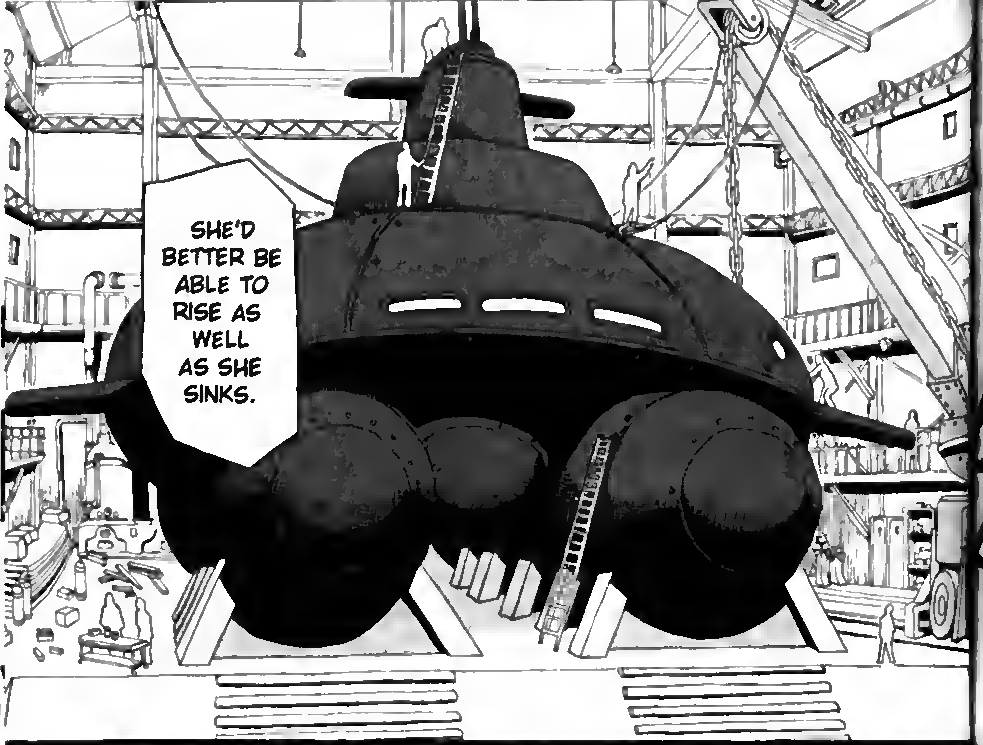

KACHING
BEHOLD THE NEW SUPER BECK: BECK VICTORY DX.
LOOKS THE SAME, BUT WE'VE ADDED A LOT OF ARMAMENT AND COOL FEATURES.
I'VE HIRED A FEW ENGINEERS TO SERVICE IT.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.
Shunk

BECK VICTORY DX
KLONG
HA HA HA!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BRING IN MORE MONEY!
TH
MEGA-DEUS!
YOU'RE WAY TOO EARLY!
FINE, WE'LL JUST ...

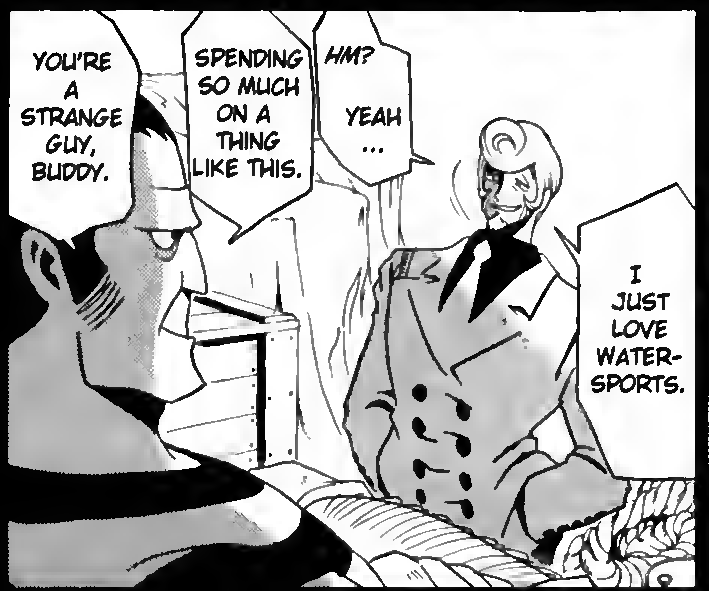
Ka-CHING
Ka-CHING
THOOM
THOOM
OUT FOR A JOG!?
RRB
RRB
FW
YOU'LL SEE!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?
TORSO SWIVEL!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
PARTICLE-BEAM CANNON! FIREBIRD!
HAHA HAHA
OOM
WE DID IT!
WE WON!
WE GOT HIM!

Swash
GAAH!

WAIT ...
BECK!
BECK, WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU CAN'T KEEP SPENDING MONEY LIKE THIS!
HEH, HERE IT IS...


SHE'D BETTER BE ABLE TO RISE AS WELL AS SHE SINKS.

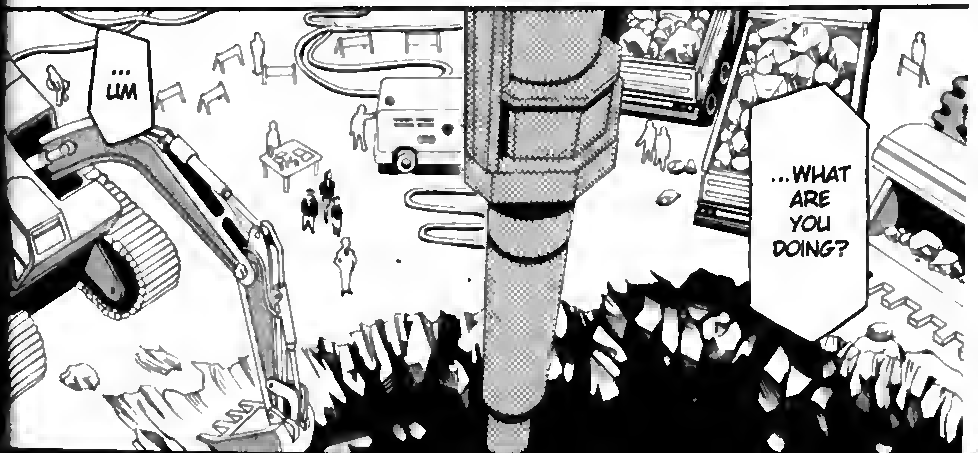
I BUILT IT FROM MY DAD'S MEMORY RECORDS.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE NOTHING...BUT I'VE EARNED EVERY PENNY YOU PAID ME.


YOU'RE A STRANGE GUY, BUDDY.
SPENDING SO MUCH ON A THING LIKE THIS.
HM?
YEAH ...
I JUST LOVE WATER-SPORTS.

KA RONG
BECK ULTRA DX
BOOM

Ka-BOOM

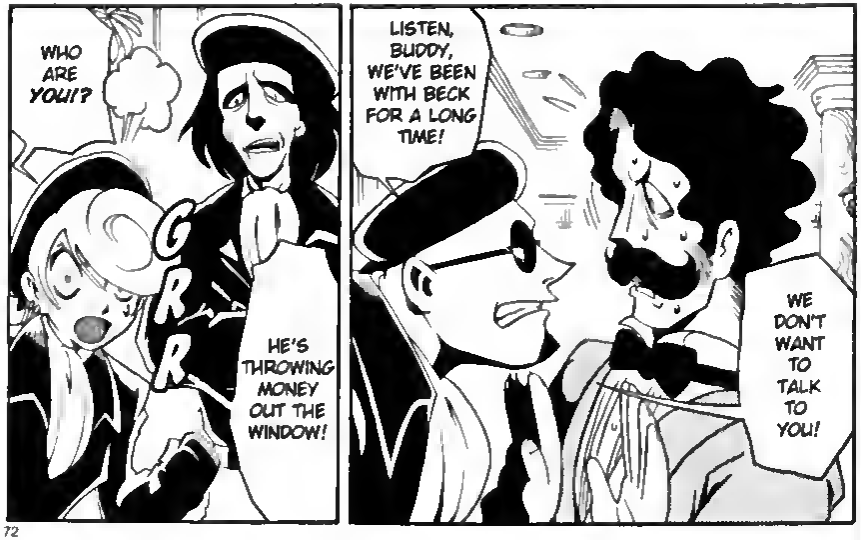
D-DON'T GIVE UP.
YAY!
WE NEED MONEY ...


... UM
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

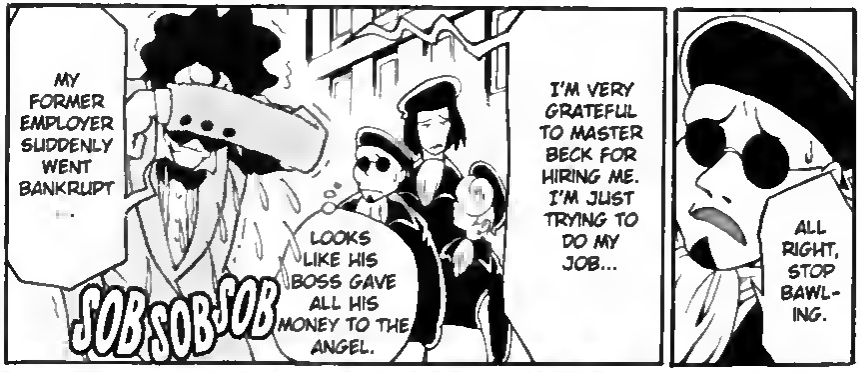
DIG-GING IN THE SAND.
WITH MY TOYS ...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF HOLES ...
HUH ?
ARG, HE'S HIRED EVEN MORE PEOPLE!
IT'S ONLY GOURMET CUISINE FOR ME!
SO I BOUGHT A RES-TAURANT. AND THE STREET IT'S ON.
JUST FOR ME.
PING
PING
PING
WE GOTTA MAKE MONEY...
BECK SPECIAL DX
RMBH
WE MUST...
BECK SUPREME DX
BOOM
WE'RE GOING BROKE.
UGH
GASP
HE'S THROW-ING MONEY OUT THE WINDOW!
BECK MAXIMUM DX
KABLOE

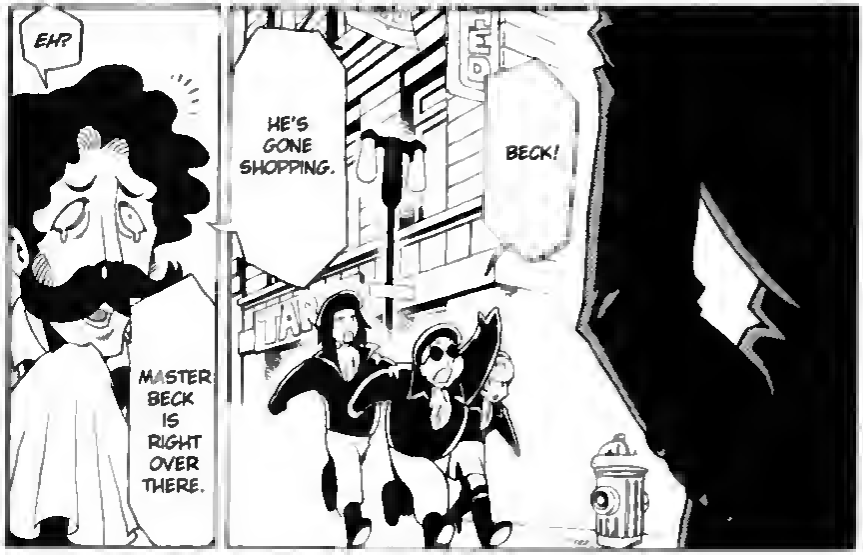
...
MORE NEW FACES!

MASTER BECK ISN'T HERE AT THE MOMENT.
SHALL I RELAY A MESSAGE ...


WHO ARE YOU!?
G R R
HE'S THROWING MONEY OUT THE WINDOW!
LISTEN, BUDDY, WE'VE BEEN WITH BECK FOR A LONG TIME!
WE DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TOO, YOU KNOW.
PROMISE


MY FORMER EMPLOYER SUDDENLY WENT BANKRUPT ...
SOB SOB SOB
LOOKS LIKE HIS BOSS GAVE ALL HIS MONEY TO THE ANGEL.
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO MASTER BECK FOR HIRING ME. I'M JUST TRYING TO DO MY JOB...
ALL RIGHT, STOP BAWLING.


EH?
MASTER BECK IS RIGHT OVER THERE.
HE'S GONE SHOPPING.
BECK!

HMM?
OH...
PUFF
...
...?
...
...!?
...!
!...
!!
!?
Y-YOU BOUGHT THE ENTIRE DOME!?

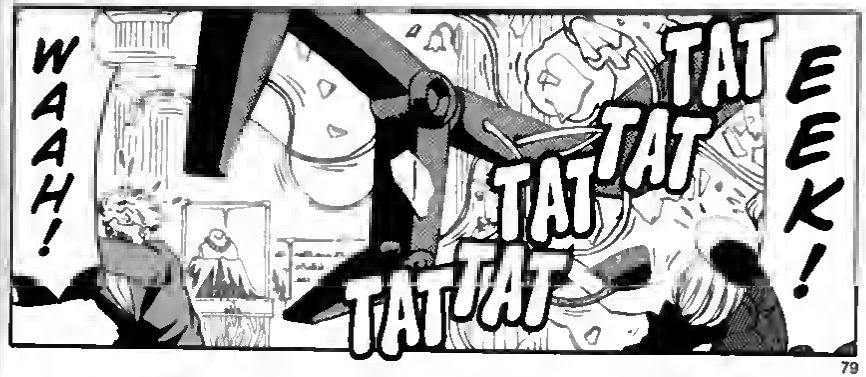
I GET IT! YOU WANT TO USE THIS DOME AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLE CITY, RIGHT...?
TAKE OVER?
WAS THAT OUR PLAN?
LATER.
TIME FOR ME TO PLAY IN THE WATER.
I THOUGHT I JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT...
...I DON'T GET IT.
HE'S BECOME COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE!
WE'LL SOON BE BROKE...
IF WE'RE NOT ALREADY!
WE'RE BOUND TO NOTICE WHEN THAT MUCH MONEY CHANGES HANDS.
AND THE MASSIVE HIRINGS... THEY'RE PRACTICALLY SCREAMING TO BE FOUND OUT.

I KNOW THESE THINGS BRING OUT YOUR SENSE OF SELF-RIGHTEOUS-NESS, ROGER...
BUT HE'S KEPT THE PEACE IN THE CITY, AND PUT A LOT OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE TO WORK.
...
HUH?
HAVING AN ESCAPED CONVICT OWNING THE CITY ISN'T THE BEST SITUATION.
I AGREE.
DAN DASTUN
ARE YOU AT LIBERTY TO SAY THAT?
I CAN TELL YOU WHAT I REALLY THINK.
THEN I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I REALLY THINK.
YOU'RE SITTING BETWEEN TWO MILLSTONES.

HE BOUGHT AN ENTIRE DOME!
WORDS FAIL ME.
IF YOU KNOW ALL THIS...
WHY DON'T YOU ARREST HIM?
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL WE CONFIRM HE'S BECK GOLD...
THOSE ARE THE ORDERS FROM ON HIGH.
HE'S NOT THAT STUPID.
GLUP GLUP GLUP
HE WORKS THOUGH PROXIES, THE TITLES ARE IN DIFFERENT NAMES...
...
SOUNDS LIKE THOSE ORDERS FROM ON HIGH UP ARE COMING DOWN LIKE RAIN.

OUR CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION HASN'T GAINED MUCH FROM THAT MONEY.
HE HASN'T EVEN BAILED OUT HIS CRONIES...
BECK REALLY IS A GENIUS... AT WASTING MONEY.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASY TO MAKE EVEN MORE MONEY WITH ALL THAT CAPITAL.
HEY NOW...
ARE YOU LOSING FAITH IN BECK?
...NO
WE'VE COME THIS FAR WITH HIM ...
WE'LL SEE THINGS THROUGH TO THE END!
YEAH!!
OKAY...!

WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR
BOOM
ULTRA BECK VICTORY DX SPECIAL MAXIMUM ASSAULT VEHICLE
SQUIK
SQUIK
SQUIK
SQUIK


WAAH!
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
EEK!

HA HA HA HA!
WE JUST HAVE TO STEAL BACK ALL THE MONEY WE'VE SPENT! RIGHT, BECK!?
YOU NEVER LEARN...
THOOM
THERE YOU ARE, MEGA-DEUS!
VICTORY BEAM!
REEEEEEN

WHY ISN'T ANYTHING COMING OUT!?
WE RAN OUT OF MONEY! THAT BARGAIN POWER SYSTEM IS WORTH-LESS!
YEEK!
BLAM MO!!
BECK, HELP US!
WAAH!
ENOUGH, ALREADY ...

WHOOOM
!?
CHA
NK
WHAT THE--

klak
krak
krsh
WOMP
wm
wmm
wmm
wmm
wmm
wm
...
!?

HEH HEH HEH ...
WMN
WMN
WMN
WMN
WMN
WMN
WMN
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH ...
HEE ... HO HO HO!

WMM
WMM
WMM
WMM
WMM
WMM
WMM
...
BECK
?
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!!

...WE'VE BEEN PULLED DEEP UNDER-GROUND...

!!
WHOOSH
FWASH
BECK, WHERE DID YOU UNEARTH THAT THING!?

KA
BL
A
M
RRRRMMM
RO-
O-
GER
...
OH.
RO-
O...
GERRR...
ERK
ERK
ERK
ERK
ERK
HEH
HEH
...
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
VWEEEE
WERRRR
HYA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
WOOM
"SMITH!
KRUK
whoom
WHAM
HUH?
A LOVE TAP?
HEH-HEH! HEE HEE HEE HEE, KAK KAK!
IF THAT'S A MEGA-DEUS...
THEN MINE MUST BE A GIGA-DEUS!

PARADIGM... PARADISE... PARALYZE...
ROGER, I WANTED TO SEE YOU HERE UNDER-GROUND...
DOES THAT MEGA-DEUS YOU FOUND ALLOW YOU...
TO COME UNDERGROUND, UNFAZED?
KR EE EK
EE
NOT EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF PARADIGM CITY WOULD COME DOWN HERE VOLUNTARILY
ONLY WE CAN COME DOWN HERE...
HEH HEH HEH... JUST US...
RIGHT?
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
POINT?
WHAT'S THAT?

SWUSSS
I JUST ...
WANT TO HAVE FUN!
DRINK ALL THE REAL WINE AND SMOKE ALL THE REAL CIGARETTES I WANT.
I WANT TO DRIVE FAST CARS AND RIDE IN LIMOS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ORDERED AROUND BY ANYONE!
AND WATCH OTHERS GET RUINED.
MONEY! MONEY ENOUGH TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM.
SWUSSS
TO KILL WHOM-EVER I WANT...
PARADIGM... PARADISE... PARALYZE...
I WANT TO BE ABOVE THE LAW!
A PARADISE JUST FOR ME.
SWUSSS
EAT THE BEST FOOD...
LISTEN TO LOUD, GROOVY, MUSIC...
HAVE A NICE, COMFORT-ABLE LIVING SPACE...
YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY, ROGER.
SWUSSS
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FOOLS...
HAVE THE HOTTEST CHICKS...
NOTHING IN THE BOONIES— A PENT-HOUSE WILL DO.
YOU CAN BUY ANYTHING, Y'KNOW? WOMEN, FREEDOM... DREAMS...

... BUT ...
!?
HUFF
WHAM
I CAN'T DO ALL THAT WITH YOU AROUND, ROGER!

KRRASH
UNH ...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
...HUH ...?
RRR
KRA
WWK
FWOOM

FWOOSH
DAMN!
KRK
KRASH
THUDD

chakchakchak
...WHAT IS THIS...?
WOO WOO
CHAK CHAK CHAK
SWUSS SWUSS SWUSS SWUSS SWUSS

!!
GASP
VREEEEEW
ZOWWW
BOOM
NOWWW
FSSSH
DOOM
WOOSH WOOSH WOOSH
DOOM
DOO
M
BADOOOOM

THOOM
WHAT'S GOING ON... !?
VW
MM
MMMM

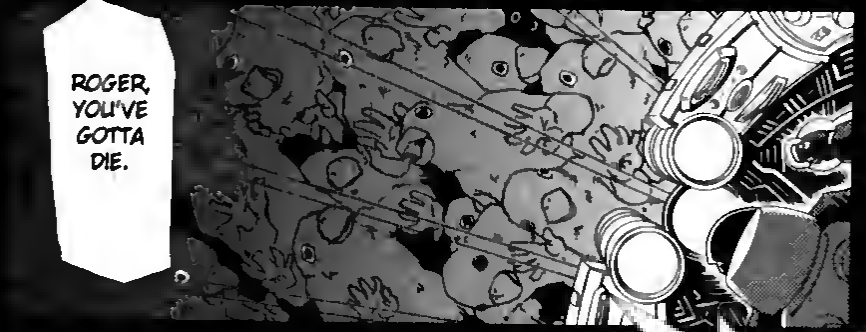
ROWWR
!?
SCHWARZ-WALD! IS THAT YOU!?
WOOOOOOM
...NO, NOT HIM...!
CHAK CHAK
CHAK CHAK CHA!

ARE THESE MEMORIES...
...OF THE WORLD AS IT ONCE WAS?
TRMP
TRMP
TRMP
RMP
YAAAY
PARADIGM... PARADISE... PARALYZE...
YAAAY
ROGER?
YAAAY
DIDN'T YOU SEE ALL THIS WHEN YOU WERE UNDER-GROUND BEFORE?

ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT...
YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT!
EVER SINCE I FOUND MY GIGADEUS, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STAY AWAY.
SHAME ON YOU FOR KEEPING THIS ALL TO YOURSELF, ROGER...
EVER SINCE YOU FOUND YOUR MEGA-DEUS...

TSSHT

PARADIGM...
PARADISE...
PARALYZE...
ON SECOND THOUGHT ...


ROGER, YOU'VE GOTTA DIE.

I WANT THIS ALL TO MY-SELF!

WRRR
JUST FOR ME...
MYSELF...
VREEEN
AND I!
AND YOU'RE NOT ME!
AND I'M NOT YOU EITHER!
SO THERE WE ARE!

TELL, ME ROGER.

KA
BOOM
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WIR
RR
RRR
IT'S FUNNY THING, Y'KNOW!?
SILLY ROGER! A GIGADEUS TRUMPS A MEGADEUS!
SOLDERNO SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESIGN A MECH THAT COULD DEFEAT YOUR MEGADEUS!

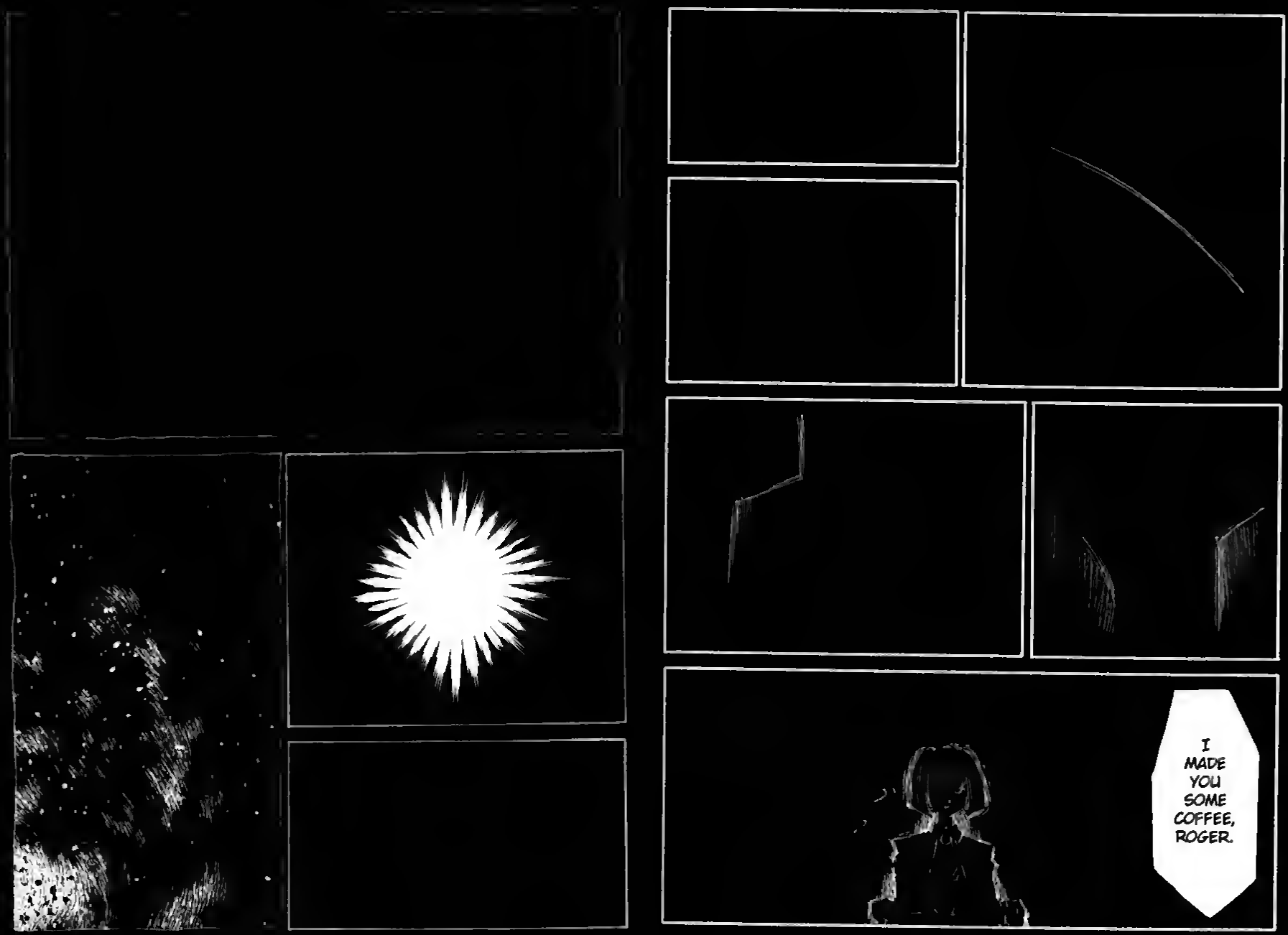
BUT HE WAS SO WRONG!
shoom
I, MYSELF, AM PILOTING A MECH THAT CAN CRUSH THE MEGADEUS!
KPESH
WA-HOO!!
LOOK!
OH, GOD, I'M SOOOOO POWER-FUL!
I'M INVINCIBLE!
KLANK KLANK KWUKKKR

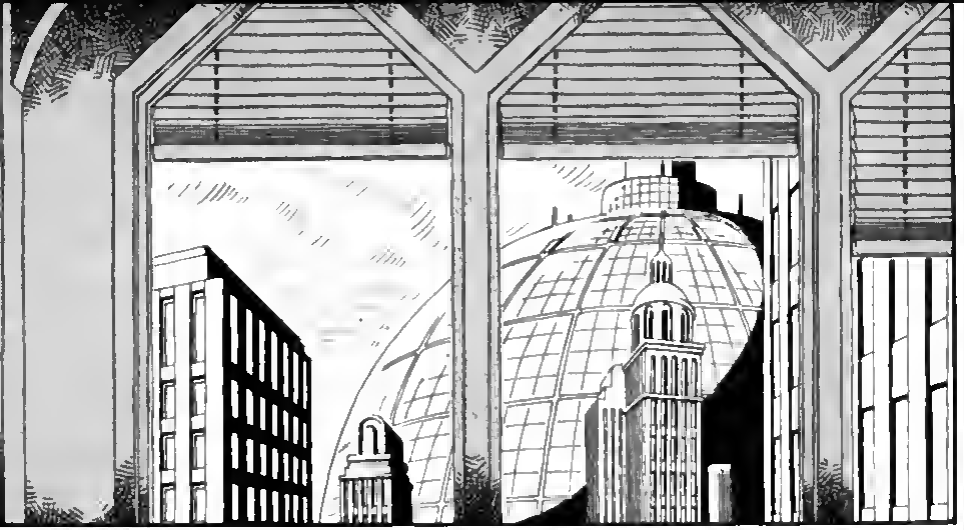
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
NOBODY IN PARADIGM CITY...
BECK ...!
NOBODY IN THE WORLD CAN BEAT ME!
AND IT'S ME, BECK GOLD...
THE ONE AND ONLY.

WON'T THAT AMBULATORY JUNKYARD SHOW YOU ANYTHING, ROGER?
PARADIGM... PARADISE... PARALYZE...
MY GIGADEUS SHOWS ME EVERY-THING!
I'M MASTER OF ALL I SURVEY!
AH... IT FEELS GOOD.
BRING ME SOME BOOZE!
I'M SINKING!
HA HA HA HA HA
I CAN KNOW ALL, AND I CAN SEE ALL...
I DIDN'T CARE BEFORE, BUT NOW THAT IT'S ALL MINE...!
DOESN'T THAT HAPPEN TO YOU?
PARADIGM... PARADISE... PARALYZE...
PARADIGM... PARADISE... PARALYZE...
EVEN MONEY IS MY DOING!

CHROME
...
BUSTER!

HA HA HA HA ...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
BECK ...!?

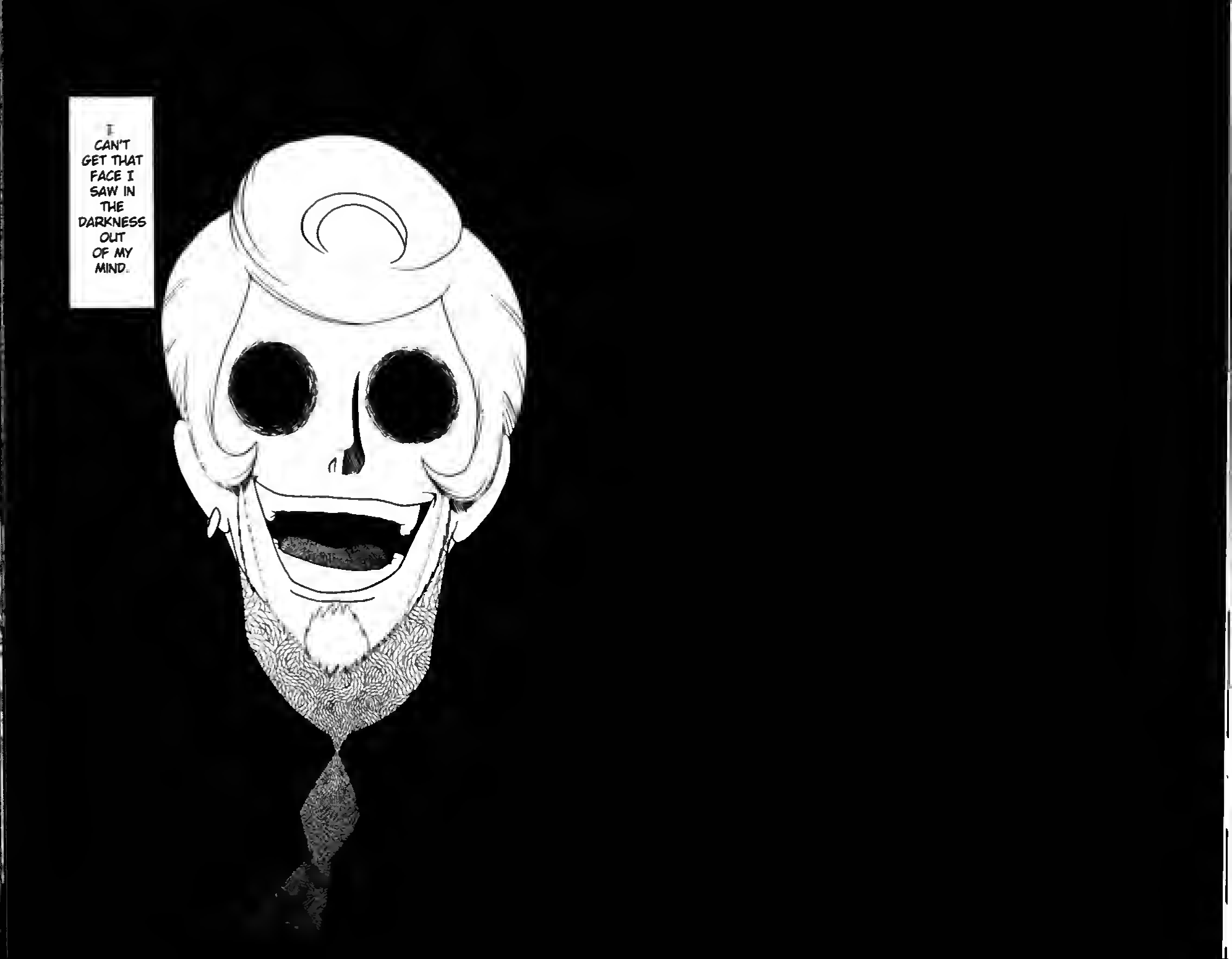

I MADE YOU SOME COFFEE, ROGER.



THE BATTLE ENDED...
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER HOW I GET BACK...

I SAW A CRIMINAL DESCEND INTO THE DEPTHS OF GREED AND WICKED-NESS....

I'D LIKE TO FORGET IT ALL OR BELIEVE IT WAS JUST A DREAM... BUT...


I CAN'T GET THAT FACE I SAW IN THE DARKNESS OUT OF MY MIND.

THE ビッグオー

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HERS IS A TALE OF SORROW.

THIS CHILD AWOKE FROM COLD STASIS INTO A STILL COLDER WORLD OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS.

A WORLD WITHOUT FAMILIES.

WHERE PARENTS, SIBLINGS-- YES, EVEN LOVERS-- PASS AS STRANGERS ON THE STREET.

A WORLD THAT EVEN THE SUN HAS FORGOTTEN FOR 40 YEARS.

AH...

WHO MADE THE WORLD LIKE THIS!?

Chapter 17: Past Lives

SNOW.
UNDER A BLANKET OF FRESH WHITE...
EVEN THE CITY LOOKS CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL, BUT IT'S AN ILLUSION. THE MUCK IS STILL THERE, IT'S JUST HIDDEN.
...
DON'T THINK ABOUT THE MUCK.
LET YOURSELF ENJOY THE BEAUTY.
YOU'RE RIGHT....
IT'S A BAD HABIT. I ALWAYS PEEK UNDER THE RUG.

A SINGER DIES, AND HER SONG IS AT THE TOP OF THE CHARTS.
...WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THIS CITY?
THE ANGEL FIASCO...
THE NEW RED MEGA-DEUS.
AND NOW A SEER WHO LOOKS INTO MISTS OF 40 YEARS AGO?

FOR SOME PEOPLE, DREAMS ARE AN ADDICTION. WHETHER ASLEEP OR AWAKE, THEY NEED TO DREAM.
THIS IS NO DREAM. THIS IS A NIGHT-MARE. THEY JUST DON'T REALIZE IT.

LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN. GOD DOES INDEED EXIST.
HE BLESSED THIS CHILD WITH A GIFT TO HELP HER SURVIVE IN THIS HARSH WORLD.

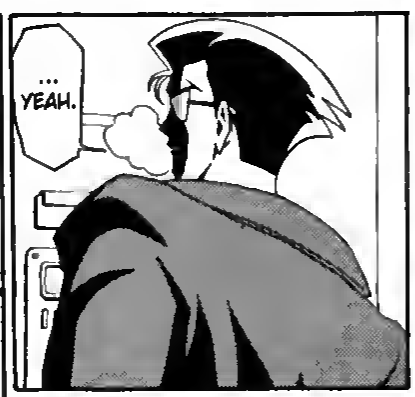
MANY OF US HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR LOST PASTS! THEN STEP RIGHT UP!
EXPERIENCE HER GIFT FOR YOURSELVES-- NOW! AND PAY LATER!

MISTER...
YOUR MAGNIFICENT HOUSE IS YOURS TO KEEP.
YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN LOVE YOU. YOUR LIFE IS VERY HAPPY. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
EH?
OH...
OH...
REALLY?
I CAN KEEP LIVING IN THAT HOUSE?
HEH
IT'S THAT EASY, FOLKS! FREE YOURSELVES FROM ANXIETY OVER YOUR LOST PASTS!

WHO WILL BE NEXT?
I-I'D LIKE TO DO IT!
ME TOO!
ME!
ME!
IT'S A SCAM.
THAT LITTLE GIRL IS MERELY VALIDATING THE DREAM THESE GROWN MEN LIVE IN.
THEY LIVE IN FEAR OF A RUDE AWAKENING... OR A RECKONING.
BETTER IF THEY COULD WAKE UP ON THEIR OWN...
SURE, BUT THAT WOULD PUT THE GOOD ALARM CLOCK PEOPLE OUT OF BUSINESS.

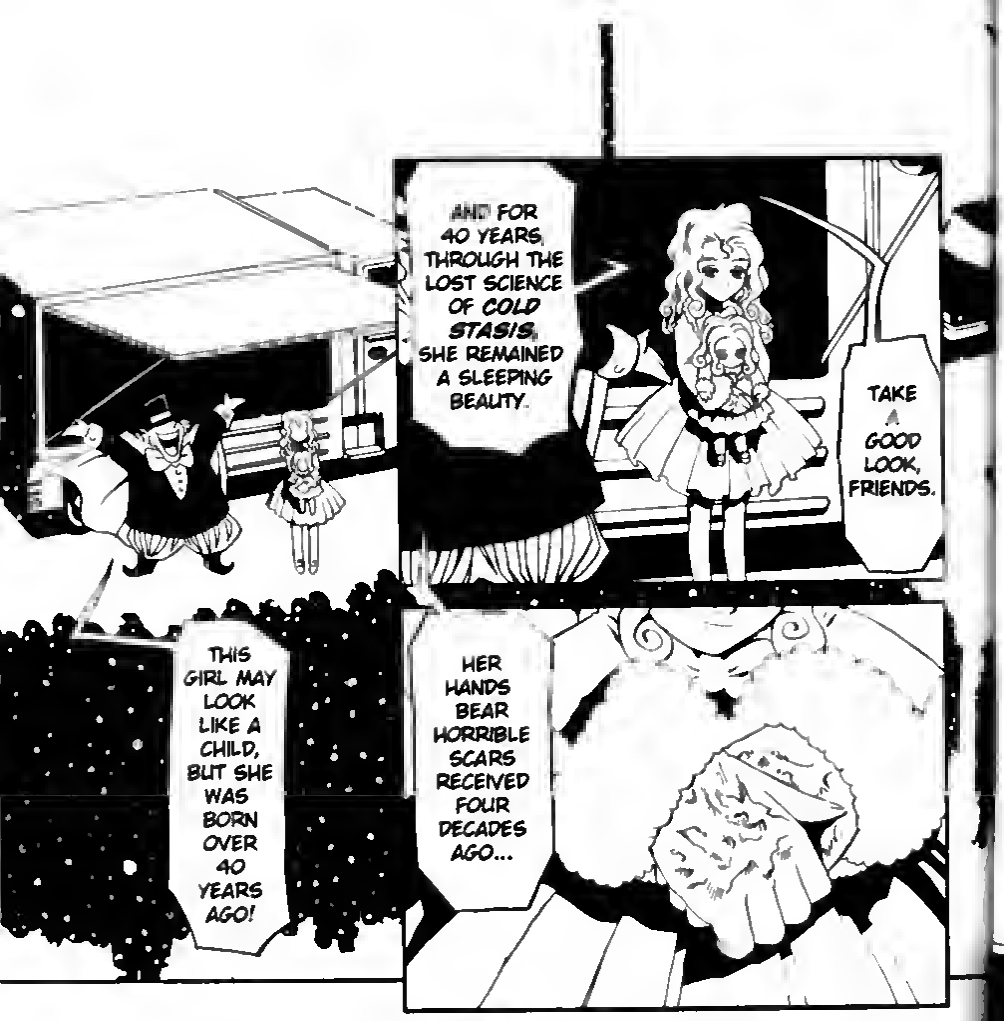
SPEAKING OF RUDE AWAKENINGS, THAT MAID OF YOURS, DOROTHY--HAS SHE GIVEN UP THE PIANO?
I WISH.

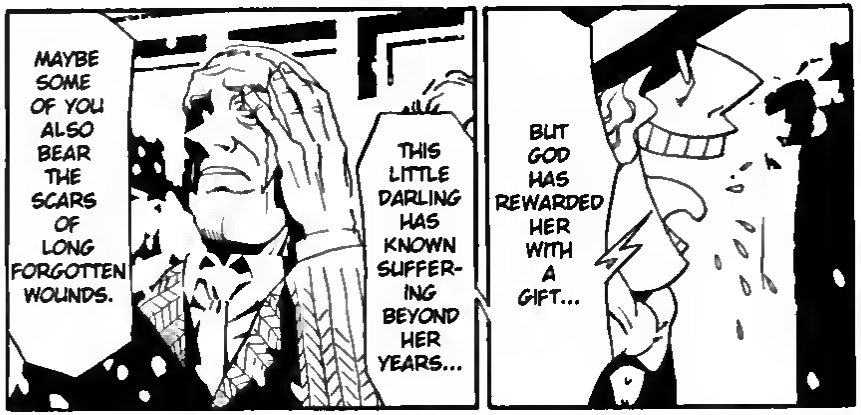
THEY WON'T RETURN TO REALITY...
UNLESS SOMEONE WAKES THEM, SOME DAY.

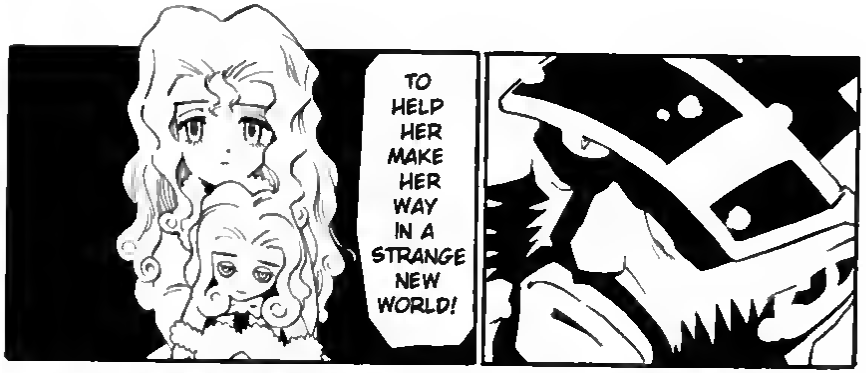

...YEAH.

LET'S GO THERE AGAIN SOME TIME.
GOOD NIGHT.

I WAS A SHOE-MAKER ...?
IT'S NOT MY HOUSE? BUT THE OWNERS DIED? I CAN STAY THEN!
REALLY? THAT'S WONDER-FUL.
THEN MY PARENTS *WERE* GOOD PEOPLE. OH, THANK YOU.
MY MOTHER IS ALIVE?
WOW ...
THEN I WASN'T ALWAYS A SCUMBAG!?


AND FOR 40 YEARS, THROUGH THE LOST SCIENCE OF COLD STASIS, SHE REMAINED A SLEEPING BEAUTY.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK, FRIENDS.
THIS GIRL MAY LOOK LIKE A CHILD, BUT SHE WAS BORN OVER 40 YEARS AGO!
HER HANDS BEAR HORRIBLE SCARS RECEIVED FOUR DECADES AGO...

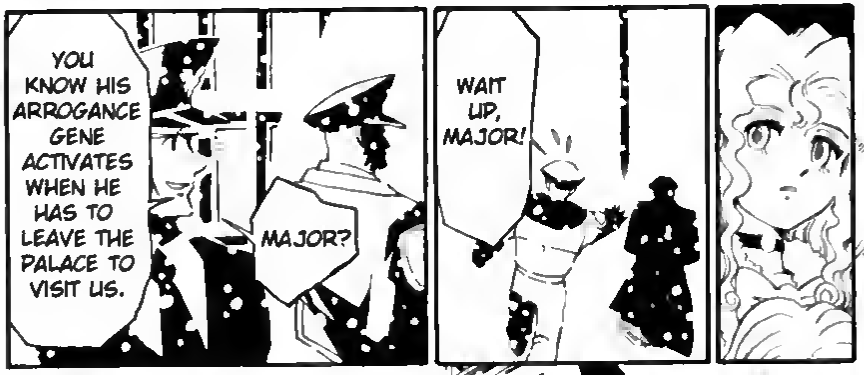

MAYBE SOME OF YOU ALSO BEAR THE SCARS OF LONG FORGOTTEN WOUNDS.
THIS LITTLE DARLING HAS KNOWN SUFFERING BEYOND HER YEARS...
BUT GOD HAS REWARDED HER WITH A GIFT...


TO HELP HER MAKE HER WAY IN A STRANGE NEW WORLD!

...THE SEER ...

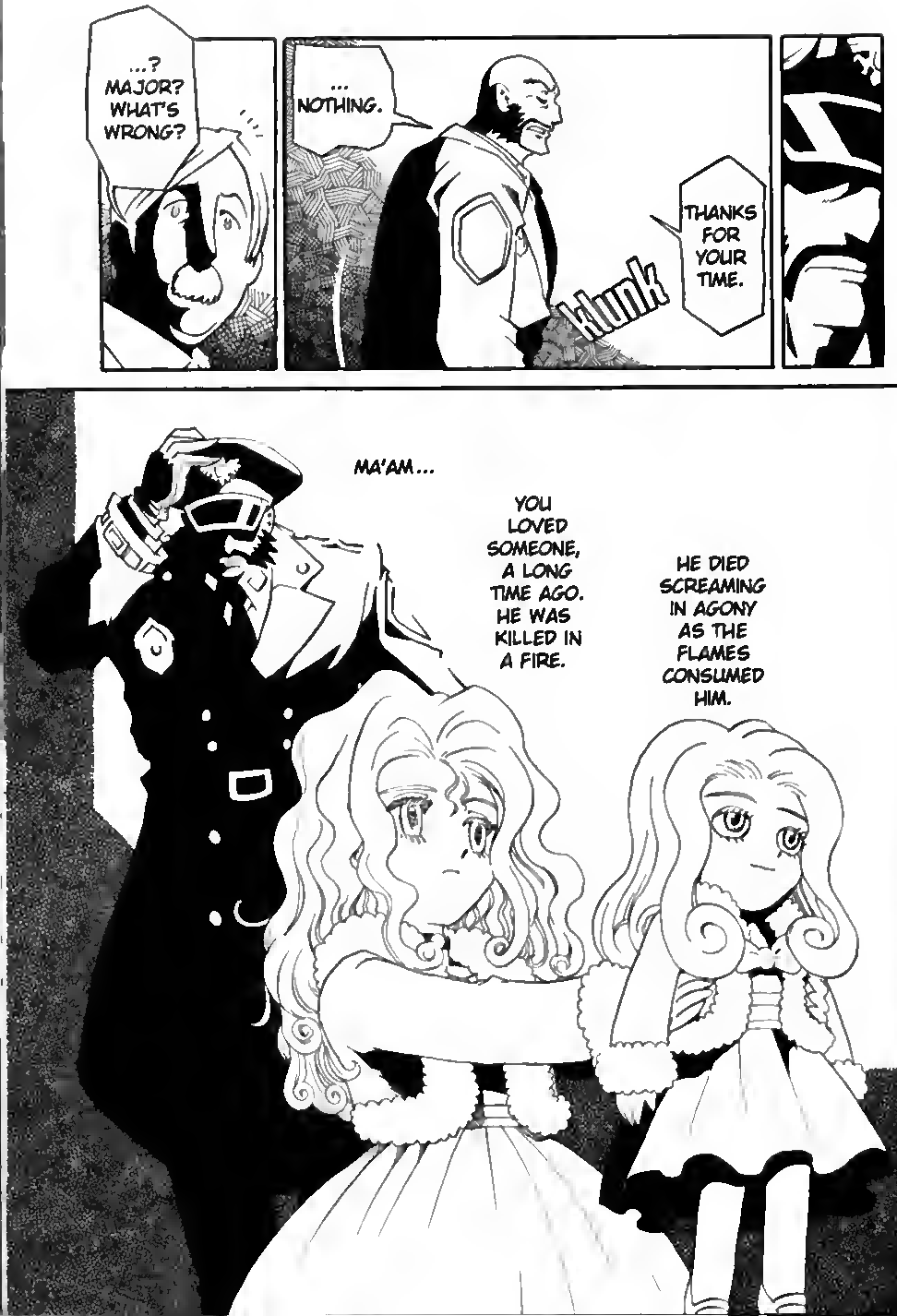
40-YEAR OLD SCARS?
RUBBISH...

THOSE SCARS ARE ONLY WEEKS OLD.
CAN'T PEOPLE SEE THAT!?
LET'S GET BACK TO HQ BEFORE COL. GAUSS GOES HEAT-SEEKING.


YOU KNOW HIS ARROGANCE GENE ACTIVATES WHEN HE HAS TO LEAVE THE PALACE TO VISIT US.
MAJOR?
WAIT UP, MAJOR!

WE'VE HAD SEVERAL REPORTS...
WE THINK IT'S A KIND OF MNEMONIC NEUROSIS.
YOU RECALL THE UNUSUAL SEISMIC ACTIVITY LAST MONTH?
THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED.

MOST PECULIAR.
MOST OF THE SUBJECTS ARE UNDER 40, YET THEY CLAIM TO REMEMBER THINGS FROM BEFORE THE EVENT.
...
OF COURSE IT'S DIFFICULT TO VERIFY THEIR CLAIMS. THEY MAY VERY WELL BE DELUSIONS.


...? MAJOR? WHAT'S WRONG?
... NOTHING.
klunk
THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.
MA'AM...
YOU LOVED SOMEONE, A LONG TIME AGO. HE WAS KILLED IN A FIRE.
HE DIED SCREAMING IN AGONY AS THE FLAMES CONSUMED HIM.

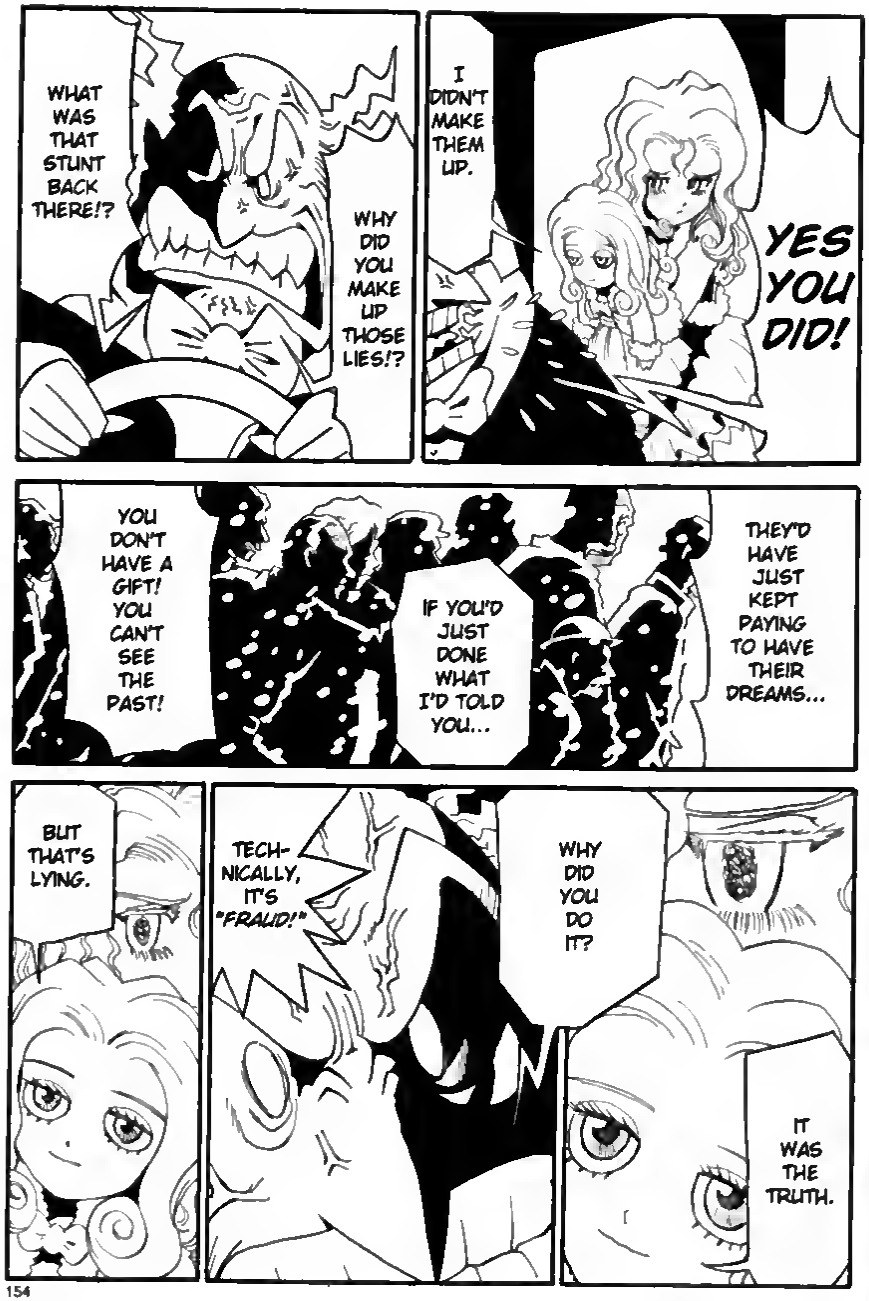
WUSP WUSP WUSP WUSP
THAT LITTLE IDIOT! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER!?
ARE YOU CRYING, MA'AM?
veeN
MISTER ...
THAT MAN IS NOT YOUR FATHER.
HE WAS A ROBBER.
HE KILLED YOUR REAL FATHER.
WUSPWUSP
THEN THE WORLD CHANGED...
AND EVERY-ONE FORGOT.
BY CHANCE... YOU WERE STANDING TOGETHER... THAT'S THE ONLY TIE THAT BINDS YOU.
I...

I WON'T STAND FOR ANY MORE! SHE'S NO SEERESS!!
SHE'S MAKING UP WILD CLAIMS THAT NO ONE CAN PROVE!
ULP!
YEAH!
MAYBE YOU JUST CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH!
HER "TRUTHS" ARE TOO UGLY FOR ME!
YOU JUST WANT TO BELIEVE YOU'VE FOUND YOUR PAST!
NOT KNOWING IS UNBEAR-ABLE!
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS--I WANT TO KNOW!
-:AHEM:- WELL, FOLKS...
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY!
HEY!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

HELP!
TAKE IT BACK!
WHAT ABOUT MY PAST?
VROOM
CREEEECH
IDIOT! IDIOT!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!!
P-117
vroom

FOOSH
A SMOKE-SCREEN!?
KOFF! ACK!
PFFT... HEH HEH HEH.
HA HA HA HA HA!
... LAUGH-ING GAS!?
HEE HEE HEE HEE!

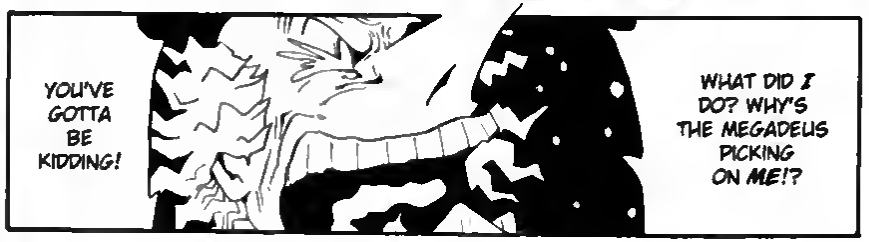
HURRY! ATTACK NUMBER TWO!
FASTER, NINCOM-POOP!
LIGHT THE THINGS IN THE BAG AND THROW THEM OUT!
NOW!
BOOM BOOM BOOM WHOA!
HA HA HA!
BANG
OW!
FIRE-CRACKERS ...?
DAMN THEM ... HEE HEE ...
BANG BANG
WHY... DID THIS HAPPEN!?
WHY!? WHY!?


WHAT WAS THAT STUNT BACK THERE!?
WHY DID YOU MAKE UP THOSE LIES!?
I DIDN'T MAKE THEM UP.
YES YOU DID!
YOU DON'T HAVE A GIFT! YOU CAN'T SEE THE PAST!
IF YOU'D JUST DONE WHAT I'D TOLD YOU...
THEY'D HAVE JUST KEPT PAYING TO HAVE THEIR DREAMS...
BUT THAT'S LYING.
TECH-NICALLY, IT'S "FRAUD!"
WHY DID YOU DO IT?
IT WAS THE TRUTH.

!!
HMPH!
I CAN'T WORK WITH A NUT-JOB!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER LOST LAMB...

THUD
SKREECH

WH-
WH-
WH-
WHAT!?
EEEK!


YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
WHAT DID I DO? WHY'S THE MEGADEUS PICKING ON ME!?

THE MEGA-DELIS... WHY IS HE HERE?
PUT ME DOWN! PUT ME DOWN!
...
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW. DON'T WORRY.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
...

AAAH!
ROARR
AH...
ROARR
AH...
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED!
IT'S THE END! EVERY-THING'S GOING AWAY!
HEY! IT'S ALL RIGHT!
...!!

NOOOOOOO!!

WAIT...
OOF
THERE SHE IS!
LOOK INTO MY PAST!
TELL ME!
TELL ME WHAT YOU SAID WAS A LIE!
KRUNCH! krak!!

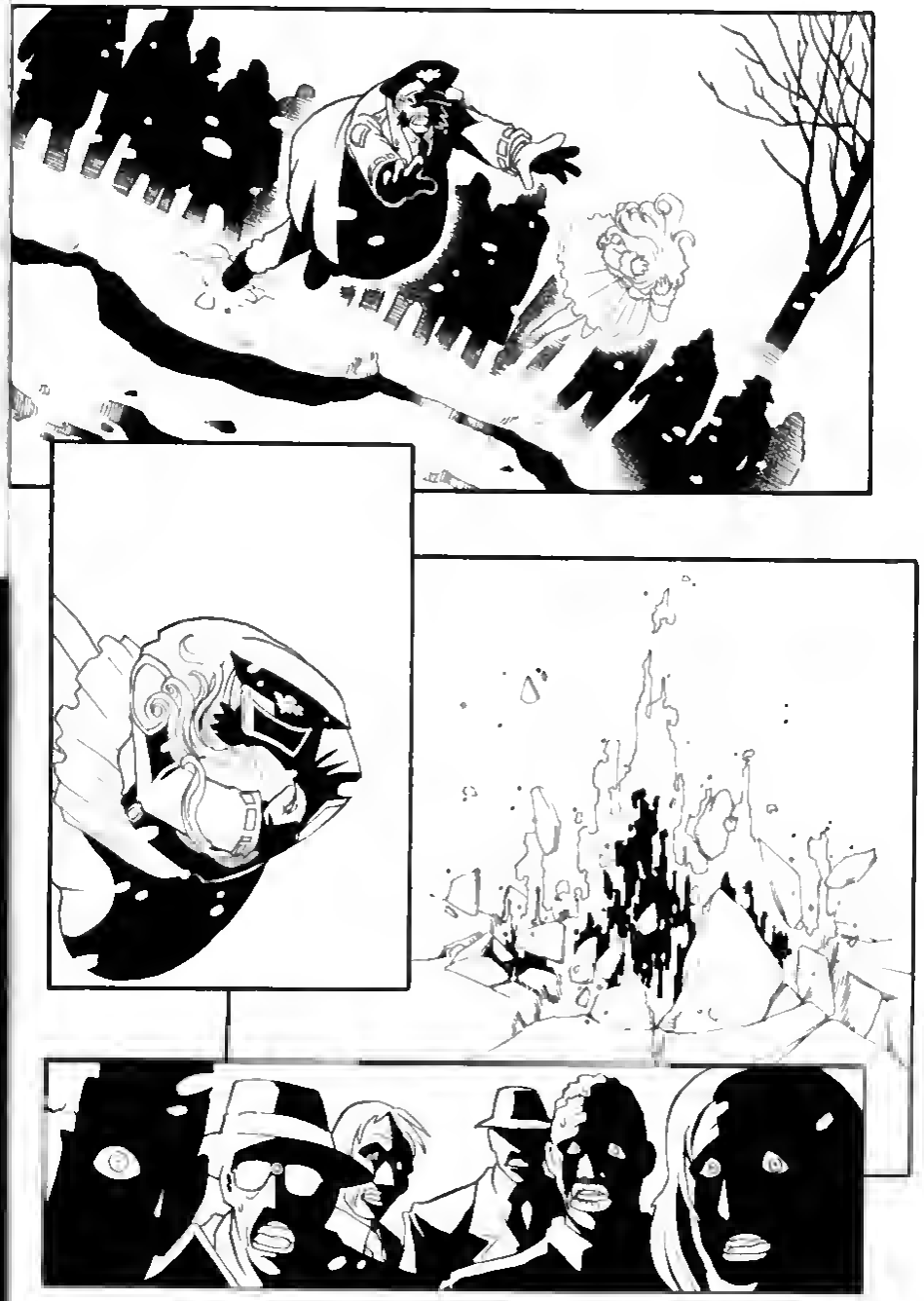
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SEE, I JUST WANT TO KNOW!
YOU'RE NUTS! SOMETIMES IGNORANCE IS BLISS!
MY PAST CAN'T BE SO BAD.
YEAH, NOT OURS. WE'RE NOT LIKE YOU GUYS.
LOOK INTO ME! TELL ME!

HUFF PUFF HUFF
TELL ME!
LOOK INTO ME!
STOP!
NO!
NO!
NO!

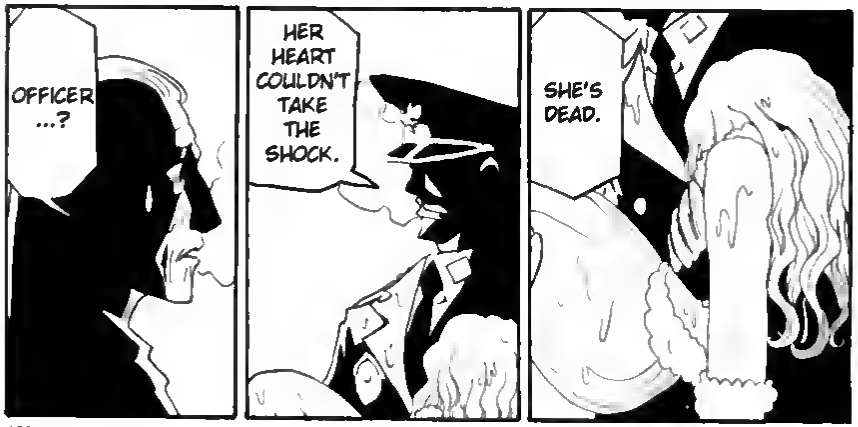
STOP YOU FOOLS!! LOOK AT YOURSELVES!!
SHUT UP!
WHO ARE YOU!?
TELL ME!
MY PAST!
TELL ME MY PAST!
MY PAST!

WIP
THAT'S ENOUGH!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THIS LITTLE GIRL?
THE PAST.
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO UNDER-STAND HOW WE FEEL.

THE ANXIETY OF NOT KNOWING YOUR OWN IDENTITY!
WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE.
I WANT TO FEEL BETTER.
I JUST WANT TO BELIEVE.
NOT KNOWING IS TERRIFYING!
NO.
LOOK INTO MY PAST.
STOP.
TELL ME HOW I WAS... BEFORE.
STOP.
I NEED TO KNOW!
I NEED TO KNOW!
TELL ME!
TELL ME!
NOOOOO!



YOU DROVE HER TO THIS...
.....

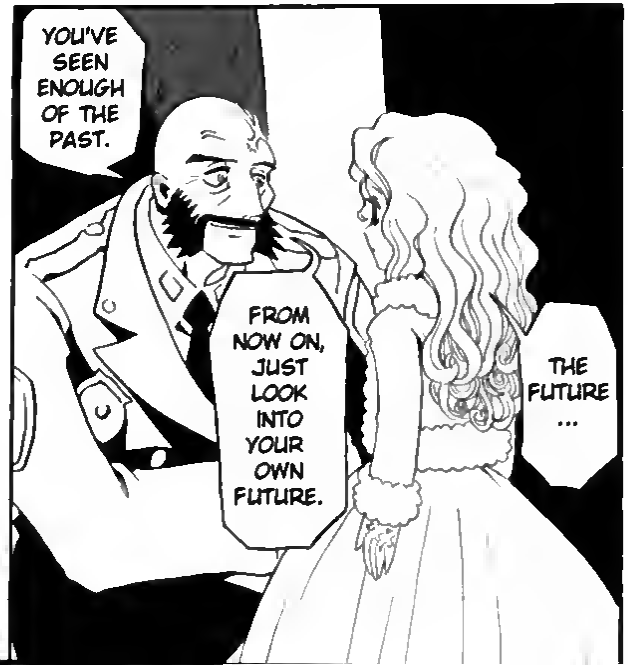

OFFICER ...?
HER HEART COULDN'T TAKE THE SHOCK.
SHE'S DEAD.

YOU STOLE HER FUTURE TO HAVE YOUR DREAMS...
BUT THE DREAM IS OVER NOW.
WAKE UP, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

...MEGA-DEUS?

THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
MEGA-DEUS, WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
MEDDLING AGAIN?
YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE... A FRIEND.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
THE SEER DOLL IS DEAD...
THE GIRL IN MY ARMS HAS NO SPECIAL POWERS.



I HAVE A FRIEND WHO'S JUST LIKE THIS HUGE MEDDLING MEGADEUS, AND HE WOULD SAY:

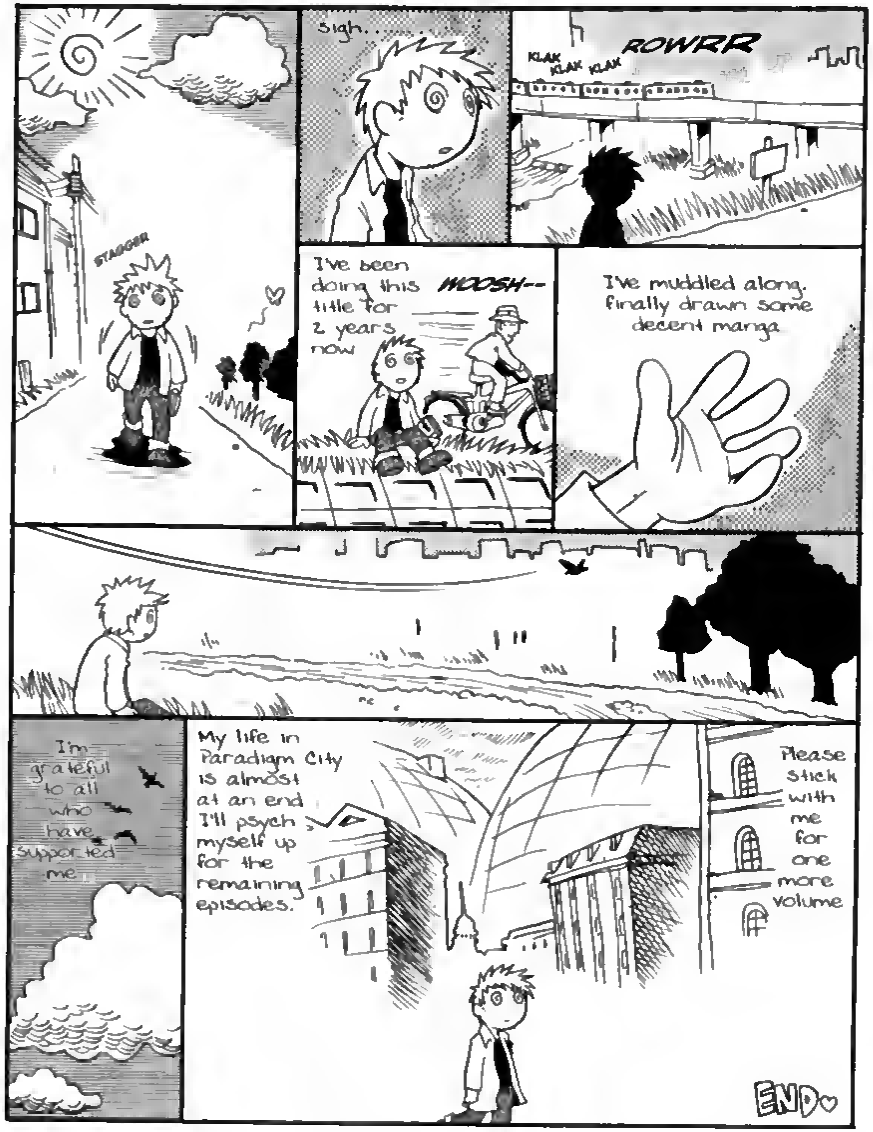
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DREAM...
IT'S MUCH BETTER TO DREAM ABOUT THE FUTURE THAN THE PAST.
To Be Continued.

2001.6 HITOSHI ARIGA

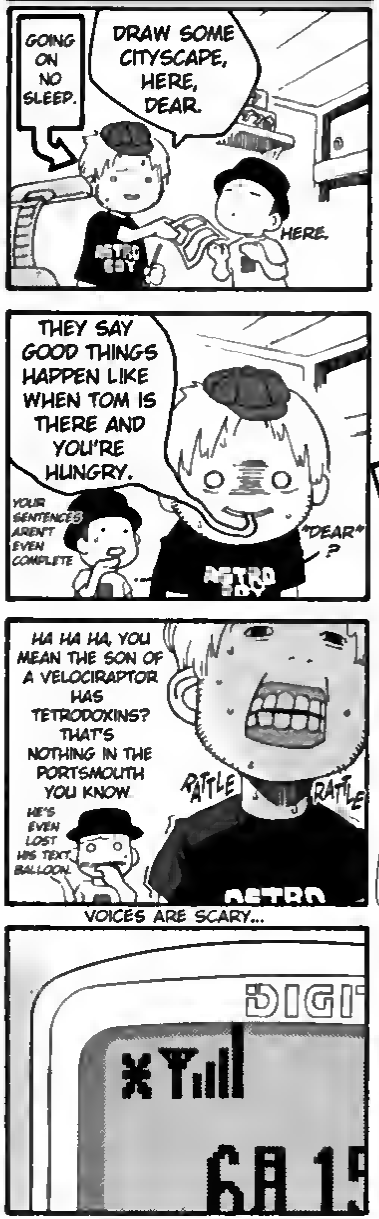
Manga Artist Documentary

Graphic-Diary Manga

"I, Manga Artist"


STAGGER
Sigh.
KLAK KLAK KLAK
ROWRR
I've been doing this title for 2 years now
MOOSH--
I've muddled along, finally drawn some decent manga
I'm grateful to all who have supported me.
My life in Paradigm City is almost at an end. I'll psych myself up for the remaining episodes.
Please stick with me for one more volume
END♡

RECEIVING SIGNALS


GOING ON NO SLEEP.
DRAW SOME CITYSCAPE, HERE, DEAR.
HERE.
ASTRO BOY
THEY SAY GOOD THINGS HAPPEN LIKE WHEN TOM IS THERE AND YOU'RE HUNGRY.
YOUR SENTENCES AREN'T EVEN COMPLETE
"DEAR"?
HA HA HA, YOU MEAN THE SON OF A VELOCIRAPTOR HAS TETRODOXINS? THAT'S NOTHING IN THE PORTSMOUTH YOU KNOW
HE'S EVEN LOST HIS TEXT BALLOON
RATTLE
RATTLE
VOICES ARE SCARY...
DIGI
68 15

ASSISTANT'S PAGE

HI. YAMAZAKI HERE. I'VE BEEN RATHER IGNORANT OF CURRENT EVENTS LATELY. NO SURPRISE, SINCE I DON'T GET OUT MUCH AND I DON'T WATCH TV.

SOMEONE PLEASE GIVE ME SOME STORY IDEAS... FOR FREE...

A WORD FROM THE ARTIST

What is important is not the past, but the future that is about to be created.

I'm not saying that you should reject the past, nor am I saying that you should just forget about bad things as if they never happened. What I'm saying is that you should look boldly forward and take steps towards the future. Live so that when you look back on your life, you have no regrets. Because everyone, at some point, will end up where they are supposed to be.

I was fortunate to have been part of this project which was so much fun to draw. I am grateful to Sunrise. I will be pleased if this manga remains as a part of your memories.

Hitoshi Ariga
有賀ヒトシ

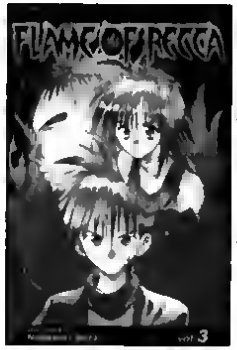
A recent photo shot in Paradigm City

Hitoshi Ariga is best known as the most popular artist of manga based on Capcom's **MegaMan** (known in Japan as **Rockman**). His major works include **Rockman Remix** (one volume), **Rockman Megamix** (two volumes), and assorted 4-panel gag manga. His first six-volume manga adaptation of **The Big O**, based on the animated series from Sunrise, ran from 1999 to 2001 in Kodansha's **Magazine Z**. His website, "Ariga Megamix," is at **http://www.din.or.jp/~ariga/**. As of Fall 2002, he is currently working on a new manga based on the second season of **The Big O**.

The Big A

[redacted]

Can't get enough of The Big O?
Here are three more books the editor recommends:



© 1995 Nobuyuki Anzai/Shogakukan

Flame of Recca:
Like Roger Smith, Recca Hanabishi is slowly discovering his forgotten past. Unlike Roger Smith, however, this teenage hotshot doesn't have a giant robot as a best friend. A fiery coming-of-age story from the pen of Nobuyuki Anzai. Highly recommended for all ninja wannabes.

© STUDIO TRON 1995

Steam Detectives:
Many readers have commented on how closely Paradigm City and Gotham City mirror one another. If you enjoy all the *BIG O*/*BATMAN* similarities, then you should also check out this stylish detective series from Kia Asamiya. Added bonus: giant robots and cute girls dressed like nurses!

© 1998 Masami Yuki/Shogakukan

Mobile Police Patlabor:
Here's one from the VIZ vaults. Masami Yuki's series features a goofy (but likable) cast of characters punching the clock as robot pilot public servants. No doubt you've all seen the anime versions of *PATLABOR*. Isn't it time you read the books, too?

Saras & Kickthekitty